

**Fiction Horan – *Under the Wide and Starry Sky***

Imagines the unconventional love affair of Robert Louis Stevenson and Fanny Van de Grift Osbourne, who, after meeting in rural France, take refuge from their unhappy lives and embark on two shared decades of international turbulence.

**Fiction Iles – *Natchez Burning***

Penn Cage must investigate when his father, a beloved family doctor, is accused of murdering Violet Davis, the beautiful nurse with whom he worked in the dark days of the early 1960s.

**Fiction James – *A Brief History of Seven Killings***

Inspired by the 1976 attempted assassination of Bob Marley, this tale explores the experiences of journalists, drug dealers, killers and ghosts against a backdrop of social and political turmoil.

**Fiction Johnston – *Remember Me Like This***

A family shattered by the abduction of an older son endures the fallout of four nightmarish years when he is found alive and returned to them badly traumatized.

**Fiction Kidd – *The Invention of Wings***

The story of a wealthy Charleston debutante, who longs to break free from the strictures of her household and pursue a meaningful life, and an urban slave who is placed in her charge as a child.

**Fiction Lepucki – *California***

After escaping the crumbling ruins of Los Angeles for a shack in the wilderness, Cal and Frida realize they are pregnant and seek refuge in the nearest settlement, a guarded, dark and paranoid community that poses a whole new set of dangers.

**Fiction Makkai – *The Hundred-Year House***

A couple living on a historic estate that once housed an artist's colony make a discovery that leads them into a thrilling journey into the past as the secrets of the house and its people are revealed.

**Fiction Matthiessen – *In Paradise***

During a spiritual retreat at Auschwitz, Polish-American academic Clements Olin must grapple with his own past and a family secret: the Jewish mother abandoned to her doom by his Gentile father.

**Fiction McHugh – *The Weight of Blood***

Treated like an outsider by Ozark Mountain neighbors, sixteen-year-old Lucy is haunted by a friend's murder, which compels her to investigate family secrets and sacrifices.

**Fiction Millet – *Mermaids in Paradise***

Deb and Chip, a couple honeymooning at a Caribbean resort, meet a marine biologist who claims to have sighted mermaids at a

nearby coral reef, and join with others to protect the mermaids when the resort reveals plans to build a theme park on the reef.

**Fiction Mitchell – *The Bone Clocks***

Interweaves six narratives spanning 1984 to the 2030s to chronicle a secret war between a cult of soul-decanter and a small group of vigilantes who would take them down.

**Fiction Moore – *Bark: Stories***

This collection includes "Debarking," in which a recently divorced man struggles to hold himself together as the U.S. prepares to invade Iraq; and "Foes," in which a political argument at a fundraiser goes awry.

**Fiction Moriarty – *Big Little Lies***

Three mothers and their potential involvement in a riot at a school trivia night leaves one parent dead in what appears to be a tragic accident, but which might actually have been premeditated.

**Fiction Murakami – *Colorless Tsukuru Tazaki and His Years of Pilgrimage***

Thirty-six-year-old Tsukuru Tazaki meets a woman who raises questions about a painful incident that caused his closest friends to cut off relations with him and inspires him to find out why.

**Fiction Nicholls – *Us***

A mild-mannered scientist with a hidden sense of humor struggles to repair his marriage and his relationship with his teen son during a month-long European tour.

**Fiction Oyeyemi – *Boy, Snow, Bird***

This modern "Snow White" follows a woman who marries a Massachusetts single father and succumbs to vanity when her baby's birth reveals her husband to be an African American.

**Fiction Paull – *The Bees***

A member of the lowest caste in her orchard hive, Flora 717, due to her courage and strength, finds her way into the Queen's inner sanctum where she discovers secrets about the hive that cause her to challenge authority and perform unthinkable acts.

**Fiction Payton – *The Wind is Not a River***

A husband and wife, separated by the only battle of World War II to take place on American soil, fight to reunite in Alaska's starkly beautiful Aleutian Islands.

**Fiction Prose – *Lovers at the Chameleon Club, Paris 1932***

At the Chameleon Club in Paris, Lou Villars, a star athlete and scandalous cross-dressing lesbian, finds refuge among its patrons,

and as time passes, she experiences a transformation that warps her earnest desire for love and approval into something dangerous.

**Fiction Rasmussen – *Evergreen***

Determined to find the half-sister who was given away after her violent conception in the late-1930s Minnesota wilderness, Hux discovers that the neglected girl has grown up completely wild, causing Hux to fear that they cannot share family life.

**Fiction Robinson – *Lila***

Leaving her homeless existence to become a minister's wife, Lila reflects on her former life on the run with a canny young drifter and her efforts to reconcile her painful past with her husband's gentle Christian worldview.

**Fiction Shipshead – *Astonish Me***

Helping a world-famous dancer to defect from the Soviet Union to the United States, ballerina Joan watches her friend's career soar while her own declines in the wake of her pregnancy and marriage, a situation that eventually exposes difficult secrets.

**Fiction Smiley – *Some Luck***

Follows the triumphs and tragedies of Rosanna and Walter Langdon and their five children on their Iowa farm from 1920 through the early 1950s.

**Fiction St. John Mandel – *Station Eleven***

The sudden death of a Hollywood actor during a production of "King Lear" marks the beginning of the world's dissolution in a story told at various past and future times from the perspectives of the actor and four of his associates.

**Fiction Straub – *The Vacationers***

Celebrating their thirty-fifth anniversary and their daughter's high-school graduation during a two-week vacation in Mallorca, Franny and Jim Post confront old secrets, hurts, and rivalries that reveal sides of themselves they try to conceal.

**Fiction Waters – *The Paying Guests***

Forced to take in lodgers in 1922 South London, widow Mrs. Wray and her spinster daughter find their lives profoundly and disturbingly changed by the arrival of a modern young couple.

**Fiction Wyld – *All the Birds, Singing***

Living in isolation with only a disobedient collie and a flock of sheep for companions, a woman on a storm-battered British island struggles with memories about her haunted past and endures fear of an unknown assailant that has been targeting her sheep.

## Nonfiction

### **Graphic 92 Chast – *Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?***

A graphic memoir by a long-time New Yorker cartoonist celebrates the final years of her aging parents' lives through four-color cartoons, family photos and documents that reflect the artist's struggles with caregiver challenges.

### **92 Doughty – *Smoke Gets In Your Eyes: And Other Lessons from the Crematory***

The blogger behind *Ask a Mortician* describes her experiences working at a crematory, including how she got ashes on her clothes and how she cared for bodies of all shapes and sizes.

### **92 Ehrenreich – *Living with a Wild God: A Nonbeliever's Search for the Truth about Everything***

Part memoir, part spiritual inquiry, an atheist and rationalist, after coming across the journal she kept during her adolescence, sets out to answer her younger self's uninhibited musings on questions of spirituality, science, and morality.

### **92 Jackson – *Rebel Yell: The Violence, Passion and Redemption of Stonewall Jackson***

Presents a narrative profile of the legendary Civil War general that shares insights into his military achievements, role in Confederate identity, and universally mourned death.

### **92 Mayes – *Under Magnolia: A Southern Memoir***

A memoir about Mayes's coming of age in the Deep South, and of the region's powerful influence on her life.

### **92 Rakoff – *My Salinger Year***

Traces the author's experiences as the assistant to the agent of J. D. Salinger, a job that contrasted with her threadbare personal life and was enriched by the famous writer's fan letters.

### **92 Robbins – *Tibetan Peach Pie: A True Account of an Imaginative Life***

Inviting readers into his private world, an internationally best-selling author shares stories from his unconventional life, from his Appalachian childhood to his adventures around the world.

### **92 Shteyngart – *Little Failure: A Memoir***

The award-winning author of *Super Sad True Story* traces his uproarious experiences as a young bullied Jewish-Russian immigrant in Queens, his haphazard college pursuits and his initial forays into a literary career.

### **92 Updike – *Updike***

Delving into his best-loved works, this glimpse into the life of the award-winning author, based on in-depth research and interviews, reveals a private person compelled to spill his secrets on the printed page.

### **364.1523 Kirn – *Blood Will Out: The True Story of a Murder, a Mystery and a Masquerade***

A young novelist meets and befriends an eccentric, privileged New Yorker when he delivers a crippled hunting dog to him from an animal shelter, and later discovers that his friend was a serial imposter and brutal double-murderer.

### **616 Holt – *Internal Medicine: A Doctor's Stories***

Presents nine essays from a doctor's residency--from a life-and-death effort to keep an oxygen mask on a claustrophobic patient to a nightmarish struggle to convince a man he has cancer.

### **810.9 Laing – *The Trip to Echo Spring***

Examines the connection between creativity and alcohol by traveling to locales well-loved by six of America's greatest alcoholic writers, including Cheever's New York, Williams' New Orleans, and Hemingway's Key West.

### **823.8 Mead – *My Life in Middlemarch***

A New Yorker writer explores the themes and complex influence of Eliot's *Middlemarch* and how her own repeated readings of the classic shaped her education, career, relationships and family life.

### **910.452 Sides – *In the Kingdom of Ice***

A dramatic account of the ill-fated 19th-century naval expedition to the North Pole.

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# Best Books of 2014

## Adult Fiction

### **Fiction Bezmozgis – *The Betrayers***

Escaping his political opponents in a Crimean resort town, disgraced Israeli politician Baruch Kotler runs into a former friend who had him sent to the gulag 40 years prior and must reconcile with his betrayers and his own poor choices.

### **Fiction Butler – *Shotgun Lovesongs***

Sharing a childhood before going their separate ways with careers and families, Hank, Leland, Kip and Ronny are reunited during a visit marked by culture clashes, respective pursuits of meaning and a woman who inspires passion in each of them.

### **Fiction Collins – *The Untold***

On the run from two bounty hunters in the Australian outback of 1921, Jessie reflects on her past as a circus rider, horse thief, cattle rustler, and convict while struggling to reunite with her child.

### **Fiction Donoghue – *Frog Music***

Burlesque dancer Blanche Beunon tries to discover who murdered her friend Jenny, who was shot through a window in a railroad saloon in 1876 San Francisco.

### **Fiction Elkins – *What is Visible***

A fictionalized story of the life of Laura Bridgman, the first deaf and blind woman to learn language, and those who helped her.

### **Fiction Ferris – *To Rise Again at a Decent Hour***

After his identity is stolen and used to create various social media accounts, Paul O'Rourke, a man with a troubled past, wonders if his virtual alter ego is actually a better version of himself.

### **Fiction Healy – *Elizabeth is Missing***

When Maud, an aging grandmother who is slowly losing her memory, is convinced that her best friend Elizabeth is missing and in danger, she becomes obsessed with saving her beloved friend despite the fact that no one believes her.

### **Fiction Henriquez – *The Book of Unknown Americans***

Moving from Mexico to the United States when their daughter suffers a near-fatal accident, the Riveras confront cultural barriers, their daughter's difficult recovery, and her developing relationship with a Panamanian boy.