

**Fiction Atkinson – Life After Life**

On a cold and snowy night in 1910, Ursula Todd is born, the third child of a wealthy English banker and his wife. She dies before she can draw her first breath. On that same cold and snowy night, Ursula Todd is born, lets out a lusty wail, and

embarks upon a life that will be, to say the least, unusual. For as she grows, she also dies, repeatedly, in any number of ways. Ursula's world is in turmoil, facing the unspeakable evil of the two greatest wars in history. What power and force can one woman exert over the fate of civilization -- if only she has the chance?

**Fiction Scherm - Unbecoming**

After a heist she planned lands two men she loves in prison, a woman flees Paris and assumes a new identity, furtively checking news from her hometown as her web of deception unravels.

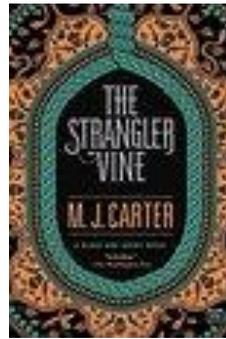


**Fiction Rindell – The Other Typist**

Working as a typist for the NYC Police Department in 1923, Rose Baker documents confessions of harrowing crimes and struggles with changing gender roles while clinging to her Victorian ideals and searching for nurturing companionship before



becoming obsessed with a glamorous newcomer and her world of bobbed hair, smoking and speakeasies.

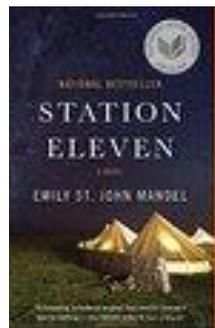
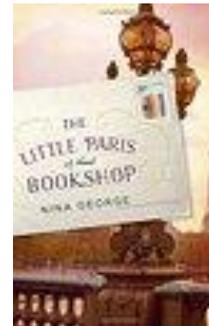


**Fiction Carter – The Strangler Vine**

India 1837. William Avery is a young soldier with few prospects except rotting away in campaigns in India; Jeremiah Blake is a secret political agent gone native, disenchanted with the whole ethos of British rule, but who cannot resist the challenge of an unresolved mystery.

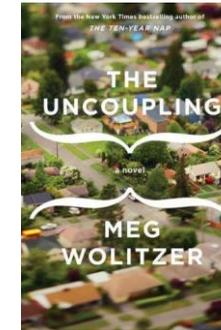
**Fiction George – The Little Paris Bookshop**

Prescribing books that offer therapeutic benefits to his customers, a literary apothecary in a floating bookstore on the Seine struggles with private heartbreak before embarking on a journey of healing at the side of a blocked writer and a lovelorn chef.



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

One snowy night a famous Hollywood actor slumps over and dies onstage during a production of King Lear. Hours later, the world as we know it begins to dissolve. Moving back and forth in time-from the actor's early days as a film star to fifteen years in the future, when a theater troupe known as the Traveling Symphony roams the wasteland of what remains.

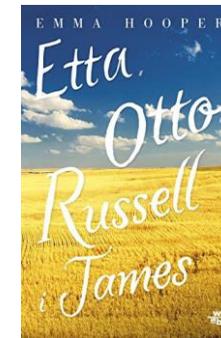
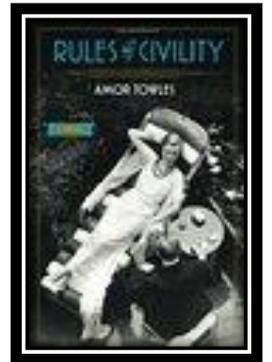


**Fiction Wolitzer – The Uncoupling**

When the elliptical new drama teacher at Stellar Plains High School chooses for the school play *Lysistrata* – a comedy by Aristophanes in which women stop Having sex with men in order to end a war – a strange spell seems to be cast over the school. Or, at least, over the women.

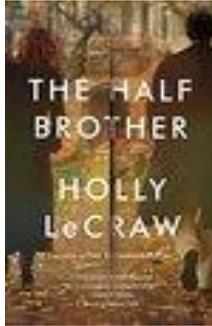
**Fiction Towles – Rules of Civility**

A chance encounter with a handsome banker in a Greenwich Village jazz bar on New Year's Eve 1938 catapults witty Wall Street secretary Katey Kontent into the upper echelons of New York society, where she befriends a shy multi-millionaire, an Upper East Side ne'er-do-well and a single-minded widow.



**Fiction Hooper – Etta and Otto and Russell and James**

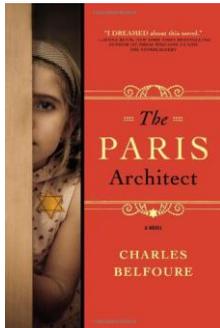
Embarking on a walking journey from rural Canada to the East coast so that she can see the ocean for the first time in her life, an octogenarian woman has experiences that blur her perspectives between illusion, memory, and reality.



### **Fiction LeCraw – The Half Brother**

Young Charlie Garrett lands a plum teaching assignment at a small New England prep school. Hoping to reinvent himself among the gentry and academic elite, he succeeds in being welcomed into the exalted scholarly community and taken under

the wing of Preston Bankhead, the school's charismatic chaplain. Bankhead's daughter, May, is Charlie's student; then, years after her graduation, she becomes his lover when she returns to campus to care for her dying father. Their affair, however, cannot survive after Charlie's mother reveals a devastating secret from her past.



### **Fiction Belfoure – The Paris Architect**

In 1942 Paris, architect Lucien Bernard accepts a commission that will bring him a great deal of money - and maybe get him killed. All he has to do is design a secret hiding place for a wealthy Jewish man, a space so invisible that even the most

determined German officer won't find it. He sorely needs the money, and outwitting the Nazis who have occupied his beloved city is a challenge he can't resist.

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# **UNEXPECTED CHOICES FOR YOUR READING GROUP**

I think the kind of unexpected I really love is when you open books and the actual way of writing is different and interesting. Like reading Virginia Woolf for the first time or Lawrence Durrell for the first time.

QUOTEHD.COM

Lalla Ward  
English Actor

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