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| **AUTHOR**  | ***Title of Book*** | **Description from Catalog** |
| Adiga, Aravind | *White Tiger* | Social and economic injustices of India are comically and tragically exposed through a series of letters to the Chinese premier from an entrepreneur who tells of his rise from a life as a servant and chauffeur. Man Booker Prize winner, 2008 |
| Ali, Monica | *Brick Lane* | Nanzeen, married off to an older man, moves from her Bangladeshi village to live with him in London in the 1980s and 1990s, where she raises a family, learns to love her husband, and comes to a realization that she has a voice in her own life. |
| Allende, Isabel | *The House of Spirits* | This novel is set in an unnamed Latin American country and describes the struggles, passions, and secrets of the Trueba family that spans three generations. |
| Atwood, Margaret | *The Handmaid’s Tale* | Set in the near future, America has become a puritanical theocracy and Offred tells her story as a Handmaid under the new social order whose function is to breed. |
| Ba, Mariama | *So Long a Letter* | A novel in the form of reminiscences recounted by a Senegalise schoolteacher recently widowed. The letter, addressed to a friend, is an emotional record of the character’s struggle for survival after her husband's abrupt decision to take a second wife.  |
| Chevalier, Tracy | *Girl with a Pearl Earring* | Holland comes to dazzling life in this richly imagined portrait of Griet, a sixteen year old of the 1660s who inspired one of Vermeer's most celebrated paintings. |
| Cleave, Chris | *Little Bee* | A confrontation between a sixteen-year-old Nigerian orphan, called Little Bee, and a wealthy British couple on vacation, has life-changing consequences for everyone involved. |
| Coetzee, J.M | *Diary of a Bad Year* | Aging author Senor C hires a beautiful young typist named Anya, and the two embark on a relationship that will have a profound impact on them both especially when Alan, Anya's no-good boyfriend, develops designs on Senor C's bank account. Told in these three voices simultaneously, Coetzee has created any entirely new way of telling a story.  |
| Coutremanche, Gil | *A Sunday at the Pool in Kigali* | Canadian journalist Bernard Valcourt, in Rwanda to make a film on the local AIDS epidemic, falls in love with Gentille, a beautiful hotel waitress, and the two become tragically caught up in the 1994 Hutu-led genocide against the Tutsi people. This novel became the basis for the film Hotel Rwanda. |
| Desai, Kiran | *The Inheritance of Loss* | Man Booker Prize 2006. While exploring the facets of romance with her Napali tutor, the Indian-Nepali insurgency reaches a frenzy, forcing Sai to revist her past and reconnect with her eccentric grandfather. |
| Diamant, Tracy | *The Red Tent* | This novel describes the environment for women in the ancient world through the Bible story of Dinah, the daughter of Jacob and his four wives, Leah, Rachel, Zilpah and Bilhah. |
| Diaz, Junot | *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*  | Overweight and nerdy Oscar lives with his Dominican American mother and sister in New Jersey and dreams of becoming a renowned author and finding true love, but unfortunately, a family curse stands in the way of his wishes. |
| Doerr, Anthony | *All the Light We Cannot See* | A blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France try to survive the devastation of World War II |
| Donoghue, Emma | *The Room* | Five-year-old Jack has spent his life living in an eleven-by-eleven foot space his mother calls Room and while Jack uses his imagination to create wondrous fantasies to entertain himself, his mother dreads the day her son begins to question why they must remain in Room and tries to find a way to escape. (WARNING: difficult emotional content) |
| Drayson, Nicholas | *A Guide to the Birds of East Africa* | Having only just worked up the nerve to invite Rose Mbikwa to the Nairobi Hunt Club Ball, the kindhearted and reserved Malik must compete for her affections when the flashy Harry Khan, his childhood rival, brings competition for Rose's attention. |
| Dunning, John | *The Bookwoman’s Last Fling* | A murder mystery set in Idaho involving antiquarian booksellers, ex police officers, horse trainers and book collectors. |
| Edwards, Kim | *The Memory Keeper’s Daughter* | Dr. David Henry, forced to deliver his own twins during a snowstorm in 1964 with only a nurse to help him, makes a decision that has far-reaching effects on his life, and the lives of his wife and son, when his infant daughter is born with Down Syndrome. In a vain attempt to protect his wife, he orders the nurse to institutionalize the baby, but she has other plans. |
| Fowler, Karen Joy | *The Jane Austen Book Club* | Five women and one man in California's Central Valley begin a six-month series of romantic entanglements after forming a Jane Austen book discussion club. |
| Frazier, Charles | *Cold Mountain* | The story of a soldier's perilous journey back to his beloved at the end of the Civil War. Based on local history and family stories. |
| Gaines, Ernest J. | *A Lesson Before Dying* | Tells the story of a young African-American man sentenced to death for a murder he did not commit, and a teacher who tries to impart to him his learning and pride before the execution. |
| Golden, Arthur | *Memoirs of a Geisha* | Nitta Sayuri, a young Japanese woman who was taken from her home at the age of nine and sold into slavery as a geisha, discovers a rare opportunity for freedom when the outbreak of World War II forces an end to the only life she has ever known. |
| Greenblatt, Stephen | *Will in the World* | Presents a biography of sixteenth-century British playwright and poet William Shakespeare and chronicles his many works of drama during the Elizabethan period. |
| Guterson, David | *Snow Falling on Cedars* | When a newspaper journalist covers the trial of a Japanese American accused of murder, he must come to terms with his own past. |
| Harris, Joanne | *Five Quarters of the Orange* | Sixty-five-year-old Framboise Simon hides her true identity and returns to the small town of her youth where she opens a cafe and discovers, hidden in her mother's book of recipes, the true story of the terrible tragedy that took place during the German occupation decades earlier--an event that resulted in her mother being driven from the village. |
| Hegi, Ursula | *Stones From the River* | Follows Trudi Montag, a dwarf who serves as her town's librarian, unofficial historian, and recorder of the secret stories of her people, in a novel that charts the course of German history in the first half of the twentieth century. |
| Hosseini, Khaled | *The Kite Runner* | Amir, haunted by his betrayal of Hassan, the son of his father's servant and a childhood friend, returns to Kabul as an adult after he learns Hassan has been killed, in an attempt to redeem himself by rescuing Hassan's son from a life of slavery to a Taliban official. |
| Ishiguro, Kazio | *The Remains of the Day* | An English butler in the 1950s has the opportunity to experience life, away from the extremely limiting circumstance of his job. |
| Johnston, Wayne | *The Colony of Unrequited Dreams* | Joey Smallwood embarks on a journey across the breadth of Newfoundland in an effort to unionize the railroad workers, and his childhood enemy, Sheilagh Fielding finds herself drawn to his cause, discovering a love she never knew existed. |
| Kaysen, Susanna | *Girl, Interrupted* | A startling true account of the author's two-year stay at a Boston psychiatric hospital. |
| Kidd, Sue Monk | *The Secret Life of Bees* | Fourteen-year-old Lily and her companion, Rosaleen, an African-American woman who has cared for Lily since her mother's death ten years earlier, flee their home after Rosaleen is victimized by racist police officers, and find a safe haven in Tiburon, South Carolina at the home of three beekeeping sisters, May, June, and August. |
| Kingslover, Barbara | *The Poisonwood Bible* | Nathan Price and his family move to the Belgian Congo in 1959, and the experiences they have while living in Africa affect each member of the family in a different way. A tale of one missionary family’s tragic undoing and remarkable reconstruction, set over the course of three decades in postcolonial Africa. |
| Lamb, Wally | *She’s Come Undone* | A young girl spends most of her time eating and in front of the TV, but changes her attitude when she enters womanhood at 257 pounds. |
| Le Carre, John | *The Constant Gardener* | A career diplomat at the British High Commission in Nairobi, Kenya, sets out to find the corrupt profiteers who killed his wife at Lake Turkana. A major motion picture starring former ISK teachers John Sibi-Okumu and Keith Pearson. |
| Martel, Yann | *Life of Pi* | Pi Patel, having spent an idyllic childhood in Pondicherry, India, as the son of a zookeeper, sets off with his family at the age of sixteen to start anew in Canada, but his life takes a turn when their ship sinks in the Pacific, leaving him adrift on a raft with a 450-pound Bengal tiger for company. |
| Mistry, Rohinton | *A Fine Balance* | The government of India in 1975 has just declared a State of Emergency, which, coupled with a housing shortage, compels four people to share an apartment. Their common need leads them to forge a lasting friendship that sees them through the bad times. |
| Mistry, Rohinton | *Family Matters* | An elderly patriarch of a small, discordant family in Bombay, finds himself at the mercy of his ungrateful stepchildren when an injury requires him to have constant care, but as he struggles to put his family life back together, he learns some important lessons about familial love. |
| Morrison, Toni | *Beloved* | Sethe, an escaped slave who now lives in post-Civil War Ohio, has borne the unthinkable and works hard at "beating back the past." She struggles to keep Beloved, an intruder, from gaining possession of her present while throwing off the legacy of her past.  |
| Munro, Alice | *The Progress of Love* | A collection of short stories that takes us into the most intimate and transforming moments of our existence – moments when the shape of a life is set |
| Oates, Joyce Carol | *The Falls* | The family of Dirk Burnaby, a New York State lawyer representing victims of Love Canal, and his wife, Ariah, whose first husband widowed her on their wedding night by jumping into Niagara Falls, is pulled apart by Dirk's obsession with his case and Ariah's fear that her history will repeat itself. |
| Ogawa, Yoko | *The Housekeeper and the Professor* | He is a brilliant math professor, with a peculiar problem--since a traumatic head injury, he has lived with only 80 minutes of short-term memory. She is an astute young housekeeper with a 10-year-old son who is hired to care for the professor. Between them, a strange, beautiful relationship blossoms. |
| Ondaatje, Michael | *Anil’s Ghost* | Anil Tissera, a forensic anthropologist born in Sri Lanka and educated in England and America, finds herself in the midst of a complicated mystery when she is sent back to her home country by an international human rights group to discover the source of an organized campaign of murder on the island. |
| Patchett, Ann | *State of Wonder* | A researcher at a pharmaceutical company, Marina Singh journeys into the heart of the Amazonian delta to check on a field team that has been silent for two years--a dangerous assignment that forces Marina to confront the ghosts of her past. |
| Picoult, Jodi | *My Sister’s Keeper* | Thirteen-year-old Anna, conceived specifically to provide blood and bone marrow for her sister Kate who was diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia at the age of two, decides to sue her parents for control of her body when her mother wants her to donate a kidney to Kate. |
| Seth, Vikram | *A Suitable Boy* | Tells the story of four large extended families in 1950s India against the political and religious upheavals of the time. |
| Shields, Carol | *Unless* | Reta's happy life is torn apart when her eldest daughter drops out of school to sit on a street corner, silent but for the sign around her neck that reads "goodness" and as Reta searches to find what drove her daughter to such a desperate statement, she learns important lessons about love and hope. |
| Simpson, Mona | *Anywhere But Here* | Restless and ambitious Adele August and her twelve-year-old daughter Ann run away to California with a host of American dreams and myths to lead them. |
| Smiley, Jane | *A Thousand Acres* | Dark truths and long-suppressed emotions come to the surface in 1979 when a successful Iowa farmer decides to cut one of his daughters out of his will. |
| Stockett, Kathryn | *The Help* | In Jackson, Mississippi, in 1962, there are lines that are not crossed. With the civil rights movement exploding all around them, three women start a movement of their own, forever changing a town and the way women--black and white, mothers and daughters--view one another. |
| Tan, Amy | *The Joy Luck Club* | The personal, often painful, histories of four Chinese American women who began meeting in San Francisco in 1949 to play mah jong are revealed as the daughter of one who has died searches for her sisters in China to tell them about the mother they never knew. |
| Trevor, William | *The Story of Lucy Gault* | Nine-year-old Lucy Gault, a child of privilege in early 1920s Ireland, sets off a tragic chain of events when, unable to bear the thought of moving to England, she runs away the day before her family is scheduled to leave their Irish country home. |
| Tyler, Anne | *Back When We Were Grownups* | Beck Davitch, a 53 year-old party planner, suddenly questions her identity and attempts to regain the youthful wisdom she had before she was swept into marriage by a charismatic older divorcee--and father of three--thirty years ago. |
| Verghese, Abraham | *Cutting for Stone* | Twin brothers Marion and Shiva Stone come of age in Ethiopia, sharing a deep bond that has helped them survive the loss of their parents and the country's political upheaval, but when they both fall for the same woman, their bond is broken and the two go their separate ways, until a medical crisis reunites them. |
| Walls, Jeannette | *The Glass Castle* | The author recalls her life growing up in a dysfunctional family with an alcoholic father and distant mother and describes how she and her siblings had to fend for themselves until they finally found the resources and will to leave home. |