



JUST A GOOD CANADIAN READ



The Best Kind of People (fiction)

Zoe Whittall

masterly exploration of the damage his family and his community incur when popular teacher George Woodbury is arrested for sexual misconduct

Black Apple (fiction)

Joan Crate

dramatic and lyrical coming-of-age novel about a young Blackfoot girl who grows up in the residential school system on the Canadian prairies

Boundary (mystery)

Andree Michaud

two teenage girls go missing and are found dead in the Maine woods – Detective Stan Michaud must determine if a serial killer is at work in his small village

The Break (fiction)

Katherena Vermette

multi-award-winning novel uses a violent crime to examine many of the social issues faced by the indigenous women of Winnipeg's North End; absolutely riveting

Company Town (science fiction)

Madeline Ashby

Hwa is hired to protect the youngest member of the powerful Lynch family who own New Arcadia, a city-sized oil rig off the coast of the Maritimes

The Conjoined (fiction)

Jen Sookfong Lee

Vancouverite Jessica Campbell is clearing her mother's house after her death and makes a shocking discovery – two dead girls in the basement freezers

A Good Death (non-fiction)

Sandra Martin

Canadian journalist explores the right-to-die movement and the importance of establishing a balance between compassion for the suffering and protection of the vulnerable

The Hidden Keys (fiction)

Andre Alexis

professional thief Tancred Palmieri is asked to steal mysterious objects which are clues to the whereabouts of a large inheritance – a fun adventure yarn

How Can I Help? (non-fiction)

David Goldbloom

portrays a week in the life of a psychiatrist as he treats patients, communicates with families and trains staff at the largest mental health facility in Canada

The Island of Books (fiction)

Dominique Fortier

in the 15th century, a grieving painter is taken in by the monks of Mont Saint-Michel as a restorer of fading manuscripts while, in the present, an author worries that her new baby will hamper her creativity

Kay's Lucky Coin Variety (fiction)

Am Y. K. Choi

family secrets, a lost sister, forbidden loves, domestic assaults – a young Korean Canadian girl discovers life is much more complicated than she had ever imagined

The Naturalist (fiction)

Alissa York

in 1867, Paul Ash is forced to reluctantly accompany his grieving stepmother and her companion, Rachel, up the Amazon in order to fulfill his dead father's last wishes

Niagara Motel (fiction)

Ashley Little

11 year-old Tucker Malone convinces his fellow group home inmate, pregnant 16 year-old Meredith, to drive him to Boston so he can find his father – Sam Malone from 'Cheers'

Nostalgia

M. G. Vassanji

Dr. Frank Sina's specialty is curing Nostalgia Syndrome – memories of former lives that leak into 'rejuvenated' peoples' minds; unaccountably, one of his patients starts triggering Nostalgia in Frank

The Party Wall (stories)

Catherine Leroux

full of insightful passages, dynamic characters and surprising situations, these interlinked stories are a moving examination of familial ties of biology and biography

The Right to be Cold (non-fiction)

Sheila Watt-Cloutier

one of Canada's most passionate environmental and human rights activists addresses the global threat of climate change from the intimate perspective of her own Arctic childhood

Shanghai Grand (non-fiction)

Taras Grescoe

Grescoe explores the exotic port of Shanghai, 'The Paris of the East', on the eve of the Second World War and the outlandish adventurers who flocked to it from all over the world

We're All in This Together (fiction)

Amy Jones

Kate Parker goes over a waterfall in a barrel, the video goes viral and, over four calamitous days, the Parkers are finally forced to act like a family

Willem de Kooning's Paintbrush (stories)

Kerry Lee Powell

these stories, about vulnerable characters who long to escape from their straitened circumstances, never end up in quite the places you expect them to

The Wonder (fiction)*

Emma Donoghue

an English nurse is hired to keep watch over an Irish girl who appears to be thriving despite months without food - is it a fraud or a miracle?

** also available in spoken word CD format*



WHEN YOU WANT TO THINK ABOUT IT



The Association of Small Bombs (fiction)

provocative and deeply moving exploration of the aftershocks of a terrorist bomb explosion in a Delhi marketplace

Karan Mahajan

The Little Red Chairs (fiction)*

a mysterious and charismatic stranger charms a small Irish town, including the beautiful Fidelma, only to be revealed as a notorious war criminal

Edna O'Brien

Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant? (memoir)

extraordinarily honest, searing and hilarious graphic memoir that captures (and helps relieve) the unbelievable stress of dealing with aging parents

Roz Chas

The Lonely City (non-fiction)*

Laing moves fluently between memoir, biography and art criticism as she explores the topic of urban isolation; 'luminously wise and endlessly rewarding'

Olivia Laing

City of Thorns (non-fiction)

the stories of nine individuals in Kenyan Dadaab, the world's largest refugee camp, and the political forces that keep them trapped there

Ben Rawlence

Mend the Living (fiction)

taking place over twenty-four hours, this is the moving story of a heart transplant, examining the thoughts and lives of all those involved

Maylis de Kerangal

Dark Money (non-fiction)*

an electrifying work of investigative journalism that exposes the billionaires who are bankrolling a systematic plan to fundamentally alter the American political system

Jane Mayer

Once We Were Sisters (memoir)*

a beautiful and disturbing memoir of a beloved sister who died at the age of thirty-nine in circumstances that strongly suggested murder

Sheila Kohler

Evicted: Poverty and Profit (non-fiction)

transforms our understanding of poverty and economic exploitation as it follows eight families in Milwaukee as they struggle to find that most basic human necessity: shelter

Matthew Desmond

The Sellout (fiction)*

hilarious and biting multi-award-winning satire that sends up race, politics and popular culture in America today; 'scathing and dazzling'

Paul Beatty

The Forgetting Time (fiction)

what would you do if your four-year-old son claimed he had lived another life and that he wants to go back to it?

Sharon Guskin

Seven Brief Lessons on Physics (non-fiction)*

playful, entertaining and mind-bending introduction to modern physics that makes clear the fascinating beauty of our universe

Carlo Rovelli

A Harvest of Thorns (fiction)

stunning legal thriller, ripped straight from the headlines, about a fire in a garment factory in Bangladesh that claims the lives of hundreds of workers

Corban Addison

Tender (fiction)

close friends since college in Dublin, life begins to take Catherine and James in different directions – a devastating story of young love and obsession

Belinda McKeon

Herdling Hemingway's Cats (non-fiction)

with her lively style, a British science writer makes the complex field of genetics accessible, entertaining and relevant; a surprising page-turner

Kat Arney

An Unsafe Haven (fiction)

a chance encounter in a Beirut street with a young refugee and his mother draws four people into a startling chain of events

Nada Awar Jarrar

Hidden Figures (non-fiction)*

the phenomenal true story of the black female mathematicians whose calculations helped fuel some of America's greatest achievements in space

Margot Lee Shetterly

When Breath Becomes Air (memoir)*

on the verge of completing his training and expecting his first child, a young neurosurgeon is diagnosed with Stage IV lung cancer

Paul Kalanithi

In the Darkroom (memoir)*

her estranged 76-year-old father's sex reassignment surgery spurs Faludi's extraordinary inquiry into the meaning of identity in the modern world

Susan Faludi

Your Heart is a Muscle the Size of a Fist (fiction)

during the Seattle World Trade protests, young biracial Victor is on one side of the barricades and his estranged father – the white chief of police – is on the opposite

Sunil Yapa

* also available in spoken word CD format



JUST FOR FUN



All the Time in the World (fiction)

temping as a nanny, a young musician must make an impossible choice between her life-long dreams and the family she's come to love

Caroline Angell

American Housewife (stories)

delightfully unhinged collection of stories set in the dark world of domesticity – these are not your usual ladies who lunch

Helen Ellis

Auntie Poldi and the Sicilian Lions (mystery)

recently widowed Poldi moves to Sicily to drink herself to death but is sidetracked by finding a corpse and by the handsome Commissario assigned to the case

Mario Giordano

Britt-Marie Was Here (fiction)*

behind her socially awkward, pedantic busybody façade, Britt-Marie has more imagination, bigger dreams and a warmer heart than anyone realizes

Fredrik Backman

Commonwealth (fiction)*

hilarious and heartbreaking, this novel explores how a chance romantic encounter reverberates through the lives of the four parents and six children involved

Ann Patchett

The Curious Charms of Arthur Pepper (fiction)*

a 69-year-old widower embarks on an epic quest when he finds a mysterious gold charm bracelet cleaning out his wife's belongings and decides to investigate

Phaedra Patrick

Eligible (fiction)*

a modern retelling of 'Pride and Prejudice' that still tackles the issues of gender, class, courtship and family – only in Cincinnati

Curtis Sittenfeld

The House at the Edge of Night (fiction)

absorbing family saga follows three generations of the Esposito family who own a tavern on a tiny island off the coast of Sicily

Catherine Banner

The Improbability of Love (fiction)

Annie, a single struggling chef in London, accidentally acquires a painting that may be a Watteau; a delightful romp through the art world

Hannah Rothschild

Lab Girl (memoir)

a biologist's memoir that is also a moving portrait of her long-time collaboration with her lab partner, a travelogue of their research trips and a stunningly fresh look at plants

Hope Jahren

Modern Lovers (fiction)*

three friends and former bandmates are nearing fifty when their adult lives begin to unravel after their children start sleeping together

Emma Straub

Old Records Never Die (memoir)

a journalist sets out to find the original vinyl LPs from his past and along the way hilariously reminisces about the music and the people he listened to it with

Eric Spitznagel

The Portable Veblen (fiction)

a young couple on the brink of marriage find their upcoming wedding threatened by dysfunctional families, warring values and a talking squirrel

Elizabeth McKenzie

Rabbit Cake (fiction)

as hilarious as she is heartbreakingly honest, twelve-year-old Elvis Babbitt narrates the story of her mother's death and her family's varying responses

Annie Hartnett

Sons and Daughters of Ease and Plenty (fiction)

in 1976, a wealthy New England family suddenly loses its wealth and along with that, its charm and its bearings; 'weird and wonderful'

Ramona Ausubel

Still Here (fiction)

follows the intertwined lives of four Russian immigrants in New York City and their reaction to an app one of them is designing called 'Virtual Grave'

Lara Vapnyar

They May Not Mean To But They Do (fiction)

the Bergman matriarch, Joy, is not slipping into old age with the quiet grace her family would have wished

Catherine Schine

Two Across (fiction)

a romantic comedy that revolves around crosswords and cross-purposes; will Vera and Stanley solve the clues that could bring them back together?

Jeff Bartsch

Vinegar Girl (fiction)*

retelling of 'The Taming of the Shrew' that asks would a thoroughly modern independent woman like Kate Battista ever sacrifice herself for a man

Anne Tyler

The Wangs vs the World (fiction)

after losing his fortune, Asian-American businessman Charles Wang decides to drive his children and their stepmother across the country to the home of his eldest daughter

Jade Chang

** also available in spoken word CD format*



WHEN YOU WANT TO GET AWAY



Arcadia (fiction)

a fascinating puzzle of a novel that spans three worlds – 1960 Oxford, an ancient Arcadian land and a dystopian future

Iain Pears

Colour Bar (non-fiction)

true 1947 story of the love between the heir to the Botswana throne and an English woman, a love which defied family, apartheid and empire

Susan Williams

Conclave (fiction)*

politics and spirituality are uneasy bedfellows as 120 cardinals from all over the globe begin to cast their votes for a new Pope

Robert Harris

Cooking for Picasso (fiction)*

at her mother's urging, Celine leaves for the Cote d'Azur to find out more about when her grandmother Ondine cooked for Picasso

Camille Aubray

Everyone Brave is Forgiven (fiction)*

a World War II novel, involving a love triangle, set during the siege of Malta and the London Blitz; 'beautifully written, funny, gut-wrenching and, above all, honest'

Chris Cleave

The Expatriates (fiction)

the emotions, identities and relationships of three very different American women living in the same small expat community in Hong Kong

Janice Y. K. Lee

Exposure (fiction)

set in 1960 London at the height of the Cold War; this espionage plot involving complex characters with dark secrets makes for a surprising and thrilling read;

Helen Dunmore

The Girl from Venice (fiction)*

in Nazi-occupied Venice, a fisherman finds a young Jewish woman floating in the lagoon and rescues her, a decision which will have far-reaching consequences

Martin Cruz Smith

Homegoing (fiction)*

traces the lives of two half-sisters and their descendants starting in 18th century Ghana and spanning three hundred years and two continents

Yaa Gyasi

The Invention of Nature (non-fiction)

the life of Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1859), an intrepid explorer and the most famous scientist of his age, whose ideas presaged the modern environmentalist movement

Andrea Wulf

Juliet's Answer (memoir)

a heart-broken Canadian teacher travels to Verona where he volunteers to answer the many letters written to Romeo's Juliet in an effort to better understand the mysteries of love

Glenn Dixon

The North Water (fiction)

a 19th century whaling ship takes to the sea with a killer aboard in this savage thriller set in the freezing darkness of an Arctic winter

Ian McGuire

On Trails (non-fiction)

Moor travels the globe over seven years, exploring trails of all kinds, from the miniscule to the massive, from the ancient to the modern

Robert Moor

Pacific (non-fiction)

an enthralling biography of the Pacific Ocean, a natural wonder whose most fascinating history is currently being made

Simon Winchester

The Rocks (fiction)

a romantic page-turner propelled by the sixty-year secret that has shaped two families, four lovers and a Mediterranean resort

Peter Nichols

SPQR (non-fiction)

sweeping revisionist history of the Roman Empire, from insignificant village to a civilization that still shapes many of our ideas about power and civilization

Mary Beard

The Star Side of Bird Hill (fiction)

two sisters, ten and sixteen, are suddenly sent from their home in Brooklyn to Barbados, to live with their grandmother for the summer

Naomi Jackson

The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane (fiction)*

a mother-daughter story centered around the tea trade that moves from an Akha village in China's remote mountains to modern-day America

Lisa See

The Trouble with Goats and Sheep (fiction)

ten-year-old Grace and Tilly spend the sweltering summer of 1976 investigating the mysterious disappearance of Mrs. Creasy from their quiet English street

Joanna Cannon

The Unseen World (fiction)

as Ada grows into adulthood, she embarks on a mission to uncover the secrets of her father, a leading 1980s computer scientist whose mind began to falter

Liz Moore

** also available in spoken word CD format*



JUST A GOOD READ



Academy Street (fiction)

a compelling narrative about an unremarkable life; the complex inner world of Tess Lohan makes her both withdrawn and desperate to experience life

Mary Costello

The Atomic Weight of Love (fiction)

the story of Meridian Wallace whose scientific ambitions, subverted by the expectations of her era, are reawakened by the women's movement of the 1970s

Elizabeth Church

Before the Fall (fiction)

the only survivors of a mysterious private plane crash are painter Scott Burroughs and the four-year-old boy he saves, sole heir to a media family fortune

Noah Hawley

Don't Let My Baby Do Rodeo (fiction)

after their adopted son starts acting strangely, two lifelong New Yorkers embark on a cross-country trip to Montana to track down his birth parents

Boris Fishman

Flight of Dreams (fiction)

an intimate portrait of the real people on board the last flight of the Hindenburg and a suspenseful speculation about how the disaster may have occurred

Ariel Lawhon

The Genius of Birds (non-fiction)*

an award-winning science writer tours the globe to explore revolutionary new research showing birds are much more intelligent than previously thought

Jennifer Ackrman

The German Girl (fiction)

the Rosenthals and Martins, Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany, board the SS St Louis for Cuba, one of the few countries supposedly willing to take them in

Armando Correa

The Girls (fiction)*

in 1960s California, bored teenager Evie Boyd is drawn into the circle of a soon-to-be famous cult and its charismatic leader

Emma Cline

The Golden Age (fiction)

in post-war Australia, two young teenagers diagnosed with polio meet and fall in love in their convalescent hospital

Joan London

Here I Am (fiction)

three sons watch their parents' marriage falter and their family fall apart, a situation made more complicated by the fact that a massive earthquake has sparked a pan-Arab invasion of Israel

Jonathan Safran Foer

The Last Days of Rabbit Hayes (fiction)

you'll laugh through your tears as the indomitable Mia 'Rabbit' Hayes tries to keep her Dublin family's spirits up while dying of cancer

Anna McPartlin

Lion (memoir)*

adopted by an Australian couple when he was five, as a young man Saroo uses Google Earth to try to locate his home village in India

Saroo Brierley

Mothering Sunday (fiction)

orphaned housemaid Jane Fairchild and Paul Sheringham, the house's only son and heir, make love for the last time; Paul is to get married in two weeks

Graham Swift

My Name is Lucy Barton (fiction)*

Lucy Barton, slowly recovering from an operation, receives a surprise visit from the mother she has not seen for many years; powerful and unforgettable

Elizabeth Strout

Nine Folds Make a Paper Swan (fiction)

three different stories, spanning generations, intertwine in revelatory ways to tell the haunting story of Ireland's all-but-forgotten Jewish community

Ruth Gilligan

The Noise of Time (fiction)

Russian composer Dmitri Shostakovich waits for the NKVD agents he's sure are coming for him after Stalin has made it clear he despises the composer's latest work

Julian Barnes

The One-in-a-Million Boy (fiction)*

after his son dies, absentee father Quinn seeks forgiveness by completing the requirements for the boy's unfinished Scout badge

Monica Wood

The Ramblers (fiction)

during Thanksgiving week, three Manhattanites bound together by friendship and family must learn to let go of the past to make room for the future

Aidan Donnelley Rowley

Swimming Lessons (fiction)

Ingrid writes letters to her husband about the truth of their marriage, hiding them in his book collection, and then disappears; a spine-tingling puzzle

Claire Fuller

The Woman in Cabin 10 (fiction)*

travel journalist Lo Blacklock is on assignment on a luxury cruise when she sees a woman being thrown overboard – yet all the passengers are accounted for

Ruth Ware