



**BOOKS TO CELEBRATE**



**YEARS**

**CLICK ON A TITLE TO REQUEST IT OR CHECK ITS AVAILABILITY**

## STORIES...

### **Anderson-Dargatz, Gail**

**Cure for Death by Lightning** (1996) Nudged by her mother's scrapbook, Beth Weeks remembers back to 1941 in rural British Columbia, the year she turned fifteen.

### **Atkinson, Kate**

**Behind the Scenes at the Museum** (1995) Ruby Lennox begins narrating her own life from the moment of her conception and takes you on a hilarious, whirlwind tour of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Barry, Sebastian**

**A Long Long Way** (2005) In 1914, 18-year-old Irishman Willie Dunne enlists in the Allied Forces and survives the carnage on the Western Front. Home on leave, he encounters the growing tensions over Irish independence and soon must confront unbearable choices.

### **Card, Orson Scott**

**Ender's Game** (1977) To counter a series of alien attacks against Earth, the world government has been breeding military geniuses and training them with war games. Andrew 'Ender' Wiggin seems to be Earth's best hope but will he survive his training? A sci-fi classic.

### **Clark, Joan**

**An Audience of Chairs** (2005) Moranna MacKenzie lives alone on Cape Breton managing her bipolar disorder without medication. Her contented existence is disrupted when she accidentally learns that one of the daughters whose custody she lost is about to be married. Moranna is determined to attend the wedding.

### **Coupland, Douglas**

**Microserfs** (1995) An accurate and funny account of a handful of Microsoft employees who are determined to 'get a life' despite their careers in the lightning-paced world of high tech 1990's geek culture.

### **Crummey, Michael**

**River Thieves** (2001) At the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, naval officer David Buchan arrives in Newfoundland's Bay of Exploits with orders to establish contact with the original inhabitants – the Beothuk or 'Red Indians' who are facing imminent extinction.

### **Day, Marele**

**Lambs of God** (1998) Father Ignatius is sent to assess the money-making potential of a supposedly abandoned nunnery. But three Sisters are left and they are determined to thwart Ignatius. "For those readers who enjoy having their minds stretched and their funny bones tickled"

### **De Bernieres, Louis**

**Birds Without Wings** (2004) Set against the backdrop of the collapsing Ottoman Empire and the onset of WWI, this novel follows the fortunes of the inhabitants of a small village in Anatolia. Their ordinary yet wonderful lives are torn apart by the historical forces of war, nationalism and religious bigotry.

### **Eugenides, Jeffrey**

**Middlesex** (2002) Hermaphrodite Calliope Stephanides narrates the three generation story of his/her Greek-American family, from a tiny village near Mount Olympus to Detroit to the tony suburbs of Grosse Pointe. Described as 'funny', 'sad', 'hilariously bizarre', 'amazing'.

### **Findley, Timothy**

**The Piano Man's Daughter** (1995) In 1939, just before the outbreak of WWII, Charlie Kilworth must piece together the story of his mother Lily in order to answer two questions: Who was his father? And given his mother's madness, does he dare to become a father himself?

**Funke, Cornelia**

**Inkheart** (2003) One night 12-year-old Meggie finds out her father has the magical ability to literally read characters in and out of books. Suddenly, she is right in the middle of the kind of wild adventure story she has only read about and only she can change its course.

**Gordimer, Nadine**

**The House Gun** (1998) Harald and Claudia, successful white professionals, find their comfortable life in post-apartheid South Africa turned upside down when their only son is charged with murdering one of his housemates.

**Gowdy, Barbara**

**Mister Sandman** (1995) The dysfunctional Canary family guards many secrets, including the mystery of tiny daughter Joan who reads but never speaks and plays the piano like Mozart. Yet it is Joan who teaches them a new definition of family togetherness.

**Haddon, Mark**

**The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time** (1995) Autistic 15-year-old Christopher Boone narrates his investigation into the suspicious death of a neighbourhood dog. His hilarious and heart-breaking search leads him to much more than the identity of the killer.

**Humphreys, Helen**

**Lost Garden** (2002) In 1941, loner Gwen Davis, a horticulturist, leaves London for the Devon countryside where she will instruct girls in growing crops for the war effort, and learn about love.

**Kogawa, Joy**

**Obasan** (1981) Naomi looks back on the defining moment of her childhood – the Canadian government's treatment of Japanese-Canadians during the Second World War. Considered a modern classic.

**Krauss, Nicole**

**History of Love** (2005) Fourteen-year-old Alma Singer is trying to find a cure for her mother's loneliness. Believing that she might discover it in an old book her mother is lovingly translating, she sets out in search of its author.

**Laurence, Margaret**

**Stone Angel** (1964) Hagar Shipley, stubborn and self-reliant, decides at age 90 to make a bold last step towards freedom and independence. One of the most memorable characters in Canadian fiction.

**Lawson, Mary**

**Crow Lake** (2002) Four children struggle to stay together after their parents die in an auto accident. A compelling study of sibling rivalry and family dynamics, it has proven one of BPL's most popular novels.

**LeCarre, John**

**The Spy Who Came in From the Cold** (1963) Alec Leamas, Britain's spy chief in Cold War Berlin, is losing his agents one by one to East German assassins. He's persuaded by MI5 to become a field agent himself and try to ferret out the man responsible.

**LeGuin, Ursula**

**Left Hand of Darkness** (1969) Genly Ali is an emissary from the human galaxy to Winter, a "lost" world. His mission is to bring the planet back into the fold of civilization but to do so he must bridge the gulf between his own culture and prejudices and those that he encounters. A sci-fi classic.

**Levy, Andrea**

**Small Island** (2004) Queenie Bligh's neighbours don't approve when she takes in Jamaican immigrants as lodgers but with her husband Bernard not yet back from the war, what is she to do? Gilbert, the newlywed Jamaican, is finding London much different now he's ex-RAF, while his bride Hortense is growing increasingly disillusioned with both London and Gilbert. Told in four voices, this novel explores class and race in 1948 London, as a new multiracial Britain begins to evolve.

**McCarthy, Cormac**

**All the Pretty Horses** (1992) John Grady Cole, a dispossessed 16-year-old Texan, crosses the Rio Grande into Mexico in 1949 with his friend Lacey Rawlins. Along the way, the two horsemen pick up a 14-year-old sharpshooter, encounter harrowing adventures and finally arrive at a hacienda where Cole falls into an ill-fated romance. A modern Western.

**McEwan, Ian**

**Saturday** (2005) A day in the life of Henry Perowne – successful neurosurgeon, devoted husband and proud father of two grown children. Filled with post 9/11 unease, Henry's complacent world is soon to be undermined by events much closer to home.

**MacLeod, Alistair**

**No Great Mischief** (1999) Alexander MacDonald guides us through his family's past – from the legendary patriarch who left the Highlands in 1779 to settle in Cape Breton to Alexander's older brothers who cannot escape their cultural and economical background. One of the best explorations of the Maritime heritage and life.

**Michaels, Anne**

**Fugitive Pieces** (1996) These poetic 'pieces' are narrated by two men: Jakob Beer, poet and translator rescued from Poland as a child in WWII, and Ben, child of Holocaust survivors, who has gone to Greece to retrieve Jakob's journals.

**Mistry, Rohinton**

**Family Matters** (2002) Set in Bombay in the mid 1990's. Elderly Nariman Vakeel's Parkinson's disease worsens the already strained relationships in a blended family.

**Paolini, Christopher**

**Eragon** (2003) Fifteen-year-old Eragon, last of the Dragon Riders, and his dragon, Saphira, set out to avenge the murder of Eragon's family, undergoing many perilous adventures on their travels. First in an award-winning trilogy.

**Patchett, Ann**

**Bel Canto** (2001) Terrorists in South America take a high society birthday party of international guests hostage with unexpected results.

**Richler, Mordecai**

**Barney's Version** (1997) When his sworn enemy publicly states that Barney Panofsky is a wife abuser, an intellectual fraud and probably a murderer, he is driven to write his own memoirs.

**Robinson, Marilynne**

**Housekeeping** (1980) Ruth and Lucille are orphans brought up by various relatives until they are finally settled in Idaho with an eccentric aunt. The sisters struggle towards radically different adulthoods.

**Roy, Arundhati**

**The God of Small Things** (1997) In Kerala, India in 1969, Rahel and her twin brother Estha learn that their whole world can change in a single day. Beneath the family tragedy lies a background of politics, social taboos, and the emotional complexities of adult lives.

**Shields, Carol**

**Larry's Party** (1997) Follows twenty years in Larry Weller's life as he goes from floral designer to famous architect of mazes, from son and brother to husband and father, and culminates in a wonderful dinner party.

**Urquhart, Jane**

**Map of Glass** (2005) Sylvia Bradley seeks out the young artist Jerome who discovered the body of her lover Andrew, an historical geographer, frozen in river ice. This story explores the problem of how we record a changing reality – maps, art, memory.

**Vanderhaeghe, Guy**

**The Last Crossing** (2002) A motley band accompany two English brothers as they cross the North American west at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century searching for their missing brother. An old-fashioned Western tale of adventure and a modern exploration of culture and sexual conflict.

**Vargas, Fred**

**Have Mercy on us All** (2001) Detective Commissaire Adamsberg suspects that the Black Death may have returned to Paris. He first hears the news from Joss LeGuern, a modern-day town crier who shouts it out from his Montparnesse street corner.

**Vassanji, M.G.**

**The In-Between World of Vikram Lall** (2003) Hiding from his enemies in an obscure Ontario town, Lall looks back on his life in Kenya. Colonialism has created an in-between world right from childhood for Vikram and his sister Deepa and their friends Njoro, an African, and Bill and Amie, two English children.

**Vonnegut, Kurt**

**Slaughterhouse Five** (1969) "Billy Pilgrim has become unstuck in time" and we follow him bobbing around in his life. Its defining moment is his experience of the fire-bombing of Dresden in WWII as an American prisoner of war. An anti-war classic.

**Walters, Minette**

**The Ice House** (1992) A corpse is found in the ice house of Screech Grange and suspicion mounts that it is Grange owner Phoebe Maybury's husband who has been missing for 10 years. It doesn't help that Phoebe has been living there reclusively with two women since.

## IDEAS...

### **Chang, Jung**

**Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China** (1991) Chang tells the true story of three generations of women in China – her grandmother, a warlord's concubine; her mother, an idealistic young Communist; herself, a Red Guard who left China permanently.

### **Chatwin, Bruce**

**Songlines** (1987) This modern classic explores the Australian outback and ponders the nature of man. Accompanied by Arkady, Chatwin tries to follow the Songlines, the invisible pathways the aborigines trace and retrace to maintain the world.

### **Jacobs, Jane**

**Dark Age Ahead** (2004) Jacobs examines the pitfalls of modern Western civilization in terms of its increasing failure to transmit a cultural heritage. With the erosion of community, education, science, government and professional integrity, this urban critic sees another "dark age ahead".

### **Kurlansky, Mark**

**Salt: A World History** (2002) Examines the history and importance of salt from prehistoric times to the present. Well-written, informative and entertaining, it shows how salt has affected culinary practices, economics, geography, history, politics and culture.

### **Mowat, Farley**

**The Dog Who Wouldn't Be** (1957) A Canadian classic, it's the hilarious account of Mowat's boyhood in Saskatchewan with Mutt, a dog so intelligent and eccentric it was obvious he shouldn't be a dog.

### **Pollan, Michael**

**The Botany of Desire** (2001) Pollan explores the coevolution of humans and plants from the perspective of four domesticated plants: apples, tulips, marijuana and potatoes. "Erudite, engaging and highly intelligent".

### **Sobel, Dava**

**Longitude** (1995) One of the thorniest riddles of navigation was how to determine longitude, the east-west position. In 1714 England's Parliament offered a huge monetary reward to anyone who could solve it. Clockmaker John Harrison did so in an amazing tale of political intrigue, foul play, scientific discovery and personal ambition.

### **Suzuki, David**

**The Sacred Balance** (1997) "The most complete expression of an environmental ethic from one of the world's leading conservationists". A beautiful book combining science, theology, poetry and philosophy.

### **Visser, Margaret**

**Much Depends on Dinner** (1986) Visser uses the ingredients of an ordinary meal as the starting point for a fascinating, thoroughly researched look into food and culinary history and practice.

### **Wright, Ronald**

**A Short History of Progress** (2004) Wright traces the rise and fall of four civilizations – Sumer, Rome, Easter Island and the Maya – as a way to analyse our current industrial/consumer society. Lucid, concise and well-researched, it is a 'must-read' wake-up call.