Alone in the Classroom (fiction)  Elizabeth Hay
Connie Flood's niece looks back on her aunt's years as a young schoolteacher in a prairie classroom under the watchful eye of a sadistic principal

Bedtime Story (fiction)  Robert Wiersema
a fantasy bedtime story a father reads to his son turns into a nightmare when the boy has a seizure, falls into a coma and finds he's trapped inside the novel

The Blue Light Project (fiction)  Timothy Taylor
a man storms the television studio where Kiddiefame, a controversial children's television show, is being filmed and holds the audience hostage with an explosive device

Bride of New France (fiction)  Suzanne Desrochers
in 17th century Paris, orphans Laure and Madeleine prepare for their perilous journey to New France where as “filles du Roi” they are expected to marry and produce children for the new colony

The Chimps of Fauna Sanctuary (non-fiction)  Andrew Westoll
Westoll vividly recounts his adventures at a Quebec refuge for rescued chimps and the heart-wrenching histories of its residents

C'mon Papa (non-fiction)  Ryan Knighton
what happens when you strap a baby to her blind father and send them strolling into traffic? a funny and moving memoir about family, fatherhood and survival

Dancing Lessons (fiction)  Olive Senior
in an assisted living home in Jamaica, Gertrude Samphire catalogues a lifetime of hurts in her diary as she reflects back on a gothic childhood, an abusive marriage and the loss of her children

Defiant Spirits (non-fiction)  Ross King
sumptuously illustrated and rigorously researched, this Group of Seven biography reconstructs the artists' aspirations, frustrations and achievements

Erasing Memory (mystery)  Scott Thornley
in Dundurn, Ontario, senior police detective MacNiece investigates the murder of a young woman found gracefully posed in evening dress on the floor of a summer cottage

Half Blood Blues (fiction)  Esi Edugyan
fifty years later and Sidney's going back to Berlin to hear for the first time the recording his jazz band was making when it was interrupted by the Nazis taking control in 1939

Harperland (non-fiction)  Lawrence Martin
after four years in power Stephen Harper's governance comes under the microscope of journalist Martin; tough but balanced, this critique offers a clear picture of a skilled politician at a crucial point in Canadian politics

The Measure of a Man (non-fiction)  J. J. Lee
Lee's memoir takes us into the nearly vanished world of made-to-measure suit tailoring and on his personal journey to understand his late father's life

A New Leaf (non-fiction)  Merilyn Simonds
a lifelong gardener works the soil and her soul for wide-ranging revelations about everything from flowers that keep time, to the strange gift of compost, to the great gardens of the world

Northern Light (non-fiction)  Roy MacGregor
iconic Canadian painter Tom Thomson's myth has grown to obscure the real view; author MacGregor claims to have the answers to many of the mysteries

The O'Briens (fiction)  Peter Behrens
after escaping the poverty of Pontiac County, Quebec, Joe O'Brien travels the continent, building a business empire and a family; a sweeping Canadian saga

Practical Jean (fiction)  Trevor Cole
funny, satirical tale of a briskly kind small-town wife who decides that the most practical way to protect her friends from the indignities of aging and illness is to kill them

The Sisters Brothers (fiction)  Patrick DeWitt
darkly comic tale about the picturesque misadventures of two hired guns, the fabled Sisters brothers, set against the backdrop of the California Gold Rush

Tell It to the Trees (fiction)  Anita Rau Badami
the Dharma family arrive from the bustling warmth of India and settle in a small B.C. town, mostly keeping to themselves until they wake one winter morning to find a frozen corpse in their backyard

What Disturbs Our Blood (non-fiction)  James Fitzgerald
the founder of Connaught Labs saved untold lives with his vaccines and transformed the idea of public health in Canada and the world; what so darkened his reputation that his memory has been all but erased?

What is Left the Daughter (fiction)  Howard Norman
in 1967, loner Wyatt Hillyer decides to write an explanatory letter to the daughter he abandoned years before
## WHEN YOU WANT TO THINK ABOUT IT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>At Home: A Short History of Private Life (non-fiction)</td>
<td>Bill Bryson</td>
<td>Bryson uses the rooms of his Victorian house as muse in his discussions on just about everything, including the kitchen sink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother (non-fiction)</td>
<td>Amy Chua</td>
<td>Chua launches a provocative examination of her strict parenting techniques that are a far cry from the Western more laissez-faire style; are they demanding or empowering?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Beggar's Garden (fiction)</td>
<td>Michael Christie</td>
<td>sympathetic without being sentimental, these nine interconnected stories follow various inhabitants of Vancouver's downtown east side</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Emperor of All Maladies (non-fiction)</td>
<td>Siddhartha Mukherjee</td>
<td>a comprehensive and eloquent “biography” of cancer that doesn’t lose sight of the human aspects as it outlines origins, treatment and prevention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four Fish: The Future of the Last Wild Food (non-fiction)</td>
<td>Paul Greenberg</td>
<td>lifelong fisherman Greenberg traces the history of the fish that dominate our menus and investigates where each stands at this critical ecological moment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The 4% Universe (non-fiction)</td>
<td>Richard Panek</td>
<td>you don’t have to be a science nerd to be entranced by the mystery of “dark matter” – Panek discusses the 96% about which we know very little</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Hare with Amber Eyes (non-fiction)</td>
<td>Edmund de Waal</td>
<td>De Waal uncovers a fascinating multi-generational family history as he traces the path of a collection of netsuke he has inherited</td>
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<tr>
<td>How to Read the Air (fiction)</td>
<td>Dinaw Mengestu</td>
<td>on a road trip searching for answers to his parents’ past, an American son of Ethiopian immigrants spins a narrative that entwines experience and imagination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the Garden of Beasts (non-fiction)</td>
<td>Erik Larson</td>
<td>as the U.S. ambassador to Germany in the 1930's, William Dodd and his family witness the country's descent into Nazism and violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Let's Take the Long Way Home (non-fiction)</td>
<td>Gail Caldwell</td>
<td>sharing their travels, a love of language and a fondness for dogs, two women forge a transformative, enduring friendship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listen to This (non-fiction)</td>
<td>Alex Ross</td>
<td>this collection of essays takes the reader on a magical, musical tour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Memory of Love (fiction)</td>
<td>Aminatta Forma</td>
<td>following four traumatized characters in post-civil war Sierra Leone, this complex plot includes secrets, confessions, loyalty, love and ultimately healing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moby Duck (non-fiction)</td>
<td>Donovan Hohn</td>
<td>Hohn's attempt to find a shipment of bath toys supposedly lost at sea leads him into strange currents and wild waters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monoceros (fiction)</td>
<td>Suzette Mayr</td>
<td>Mayr tracks the ripple effect of a teen suicide on his friends, family and teachers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nine Lives (non-fiction)</td>
<td>William Dalrymple</td>
<td>nine individual stories demonstrate how the ancient religious practices of India survive in a society undergoing wholesale changes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rites of Spring (non-fiction)</td>
<td>Modris Eksteins</td>
<td>Eksteins’ extensive research probes the origins, impact and aftermath of the first World War, delivering an original and perceptive cultural history</td>
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<tr>
<td>Running the Rift (fiction)</td>
<td>Naomi Benaron</td>
<td>young Tutsi runner Jean Patrick Nkuba struggles to achieve his Olympic dreams during the 1994 genocide in Rwanda</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Social Animal (non-fiction)</td>
<td>David Brooks</td>
<td>Brooks traces the lives of an imaginary American couple to illustrate new theories of the human mind as revealed by current research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tiny Sunbirds, Far Away (fiction)</td>
<td>Christie Watson</td>
<td>a girl growing up in the Niger delta finds her own strengths as she lives through family conflict, civil unrest and relentless poverty in an oil-rich country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triumph of the City (non-fiction)</td>
<td>Edward Glaeser</td>
<td>the city mouse wins in this account of why the world's cities provide the most vibrant culture, better health, myriad jobs and even a smaller environmental impact</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
JUST FOR FUN

Armada (fiction)  John Stack
Elizabeth I's navy faces the Spanish armada in this tale full of intrigue, fire power and conflicting loyalties; a battle book to blow you out of the water

Attachments (fiction)  Rainbow Rowell
Lincoln O'Neill reads other people's e-mail - it's his job; but when he decides not to weed out Beth's hilarious digital gossip it's for personal reasons

The Coffins of Little Hope (fiction)  Timothy Schaffert
media, mortality, rumor and rash acts collide in small town Nebraska when an 83-year-old obituary writer gets the scoop of her career

The Cookbook Collector (fiction)  Allegra Goodman
it's "Dot.com and Sensibility" in this astute social comedy of two opposite sisters who discover what is real and what is really valuable

Faithful Place (mystery)  Tana French
in this third Dublin murder squad novel, Frank Mackey wrestles with his own past when the body of his first love, missing for decades, is discovered in a derelict building

The Family Fang (fiction)  Kevin Wilson
it's the last performance for Buster and Annie Fang, reluctant stars of their parents' subversive performance art; a weird and wonderful story of artistic endeavor vs. family life

Happiness Economics (fiction)  Shari LaPena
a comic novel about a poet's heroic struggle to write in the face of cultural and domestic obstruction

The Hundred-Foot Journey (fiction)  Richard Morais
brimming with the colors and flavors of the kitchen, Chef Hassan Haji's journey is a story about family, nationality and the mysteries of good taste

A Jane Austen Education (non-fiction)  William Deresiewicz
can everything about life and love be learned from a Jane Austen novel? with candor and humor, the skeptical Deresiewicz describes how, just maybe, it can

Maphead (non-fiction)  Ken Jennings
an insightful and engaging look at the world of maps and those obsessed with them by a self-confessed map nerd and Jeopardy champion

Moonwalking with Einstein (non-fiction)  Joshua Foer
who knew there were International Memory Championships? this and more in a crisply entertaining investigation of human memory

The Revenge of the Radioactive Lady (fiction)  Elizabeth Stuckey-French
77 year-old Mary lou Ahern plots the murder of the doctor who gave her a radioactive cocktail fifty years ago in this dark yet surprisingly touching comedy

Rules of Civility (fiction)  Amor Towles
a smart, witty and glamorous tale of Katey Kontent's rise through the upper echelons of 1930's New York society

The Sherlockian (mystery)  Graham Moore
Harold White takes on the case of a missing diary, bygone serial killings and a recent murder in an ingenious tale about those obsessed with Sherlock Holmes and his creator

Swamplandia (fiction)  Karen Russell
13 year-old Ava Bigtree sets out to save both her family and their gator wrestling theme park

The Tower, the Zoo and the Tortoise (fiction)  Julia Stuart
Beefeater Jones must contend with an exotic menagerie of animals gifted to the Queen, a crumbling marriage and the strange disappearance of Mrs. Cook, his tortoise

The Weird Sisters (fiction)  Eleanor Brown
running from their own failures, three sisters collide at the family home where each finds their place in the family and in the world

What Alice Forgot (fiction)  Liane Moriarty
thought provoking and romantic comedy about a woman who wakes up with a bump on her head and no knowledge of the last ten years

The Widower's Tale (fiction)  Julia Glass
when 70 year-old Percy's retirement is overrun by the local preschool moving into his barn, he can no longer avoid family, community and most surprisingly, love

The Woefield Poultry Collective (fiction)  Susan Juby
new age Prudence inherits a bankrupt farm on Vancouver Island along with an old codger, an alcoholic teen and a romantic rooster named Alec Baldwin
When You Want to Get Away

**The Art of Hearing Heartbeats (fiction)**
Jan-Philipp Sendker
Investigating her lawyer father's mysterious disappearance, a daughter travels to a remote Burmese village.

**Atlantic (non-fiction)**
Simon Winchester
From the age of exploration to modern pollution, the author tells the breathtaking saga of the magnificent Atlantic Ocean.

**The Beauty of Humanity Movement (fiction)**
Camilla Gibb
The lives of pho seller H'ung and two young people are woven together by an artistic movement of 50s Hanoi in a moving portrait of Vietnam's past and present.

**Blood, Bones and Butter (non-fiction)**
Gabrielle Hamilton
The author's unconventional journey from an idyllic childhood and troubled adolescence to the opening of a successful New York restaurant – not just for foodies.

**Breakfast at the Exit Café (non-fiction)**
Wayne Grady
A Canadian couple explore their relationship, themselves and the country they thought they knew as they travel through America on a spectacular road trip.

**Cléopâtre: A Life (non-fiction)**
Stacy Schiff
Sifting through the myths and propaganda surrounding Cleopatra, this biography breathes new life into the intriguing story of the last queen of Egypt.

**Dreaming in Chinese (non-fiction)**
Deborah Fallows
An affectionate and insightful exploration of Chinese culture through the intricacies of its language by a linguist who lived there for three years.

**Embassytown (fiction)**
China Mieville
When war breaks out, a human colonist finds herself torn between her people and the alien population to which she has become inextricably linked.

**Jamrach's Menagerie (fiction)**
Carol Birch
An unusual commission for an exotic animal collector takes a street urchin on an adventure that brings alive the 19th century from squalid London to the Dutch East Indies.

**Molotov's Magic Lantern (non-fiction)**
Rachel Polonsky
Inspired by the library and magic lantern she finds in the apartment of Stalin's infamous henchman, a journalist embarks on a journey across Russia to explore its history and culture.

**Must You Go?: My Life with Harold Pinter (non-fiction)**
Antonia Fraser
A memoir of the life and love shared by this famous biographer and her internationally renowned playwright husband.

**Spies of the Balkans (fiction)**
Alan Furst
Costa Zannis, a policeman noted for his tactful handling of “special” cases, becomes caught up in a grand but reckless scheme to smuggle Jews out of Germany during WWII.

**The Storyteller of Marrakesh (fiction)**
J. Roy-bhattacharya
Each year the storyteller gathers listeners to the city square to share their recollections of the night years ago when a foreign couple mysteriously disappeared.

**Tiger Hills (fiction)**
Sarita Mandanna
A tangled relationship between a woman, a man and a tiger hunter leads to a devastating tragedy that has unforeseen consequences for generations to come.

**The Tiger's Wife (fiction)**
Tea Obreht
A young doctor struggling to understand her grandfather's last days and his encounters with a "deathless man" stumbles upon the extraordinary legend of the tiger's wife.

**To a Mountain in Tibet (non-fiction)**
Colin Thubron
A personal account of the author's journey to the Himalayan peak of Kailas in Tibet, an ancient pilgrimage site sacred to one-fifth of the world's people.

**Travels in Siberia (non-fiction)**
Ian Frazier
Half-crazed Orthodox priests, tea caravans, German scientists, American prospectors and geography lessons mingle in this historical travelogue.

**The Wave (non-fiction)**
Susan Casey
Extreme surfers, mariners and scientists help explore the phenomenon of the destructive power and transcendent beauty of the ocean's mysterious rogue waves.

**The Winter Palace (fiction)**
Eva Stachniak
A story of the passionate and treacherous world of the young Catherine the Great from her earliest days in Russia's Imperial court.

**Zero History (fiction)**
William Gibson
Hollis and Milgrim are drawn into a dangerous business when their boss, a twisted marketing genius, finds himself outmaneuvered in a fight over contracts to supply the U.S. military with clothing.
JUST A GOOD READ

The Art of Fielding (fiction)  Chad Harbach
Henry Skrimschner is a young American baseball star, but one disastrous throw changes his life and alters the fates of four other members of his college community.

Better Living through Plastic Explosives (fiction)  Zsuzsi Gartner
local author takes aim at contemporary culture in this wickedly funny collection of short stories set on the West Coast.

Bitter in the Mouth (fiction)  Monique Truong
when a personal tragedy compels Linda Hammerick to return to a small town in North Carolina, she uncovers the startling secrets of her past and the true meaning of family.

Buddha in the Attic (fiction)  Julie Otsuka
a series of eloquent narratives tracing the lives of Japanese picture brides brought to California in the early 20th century.

Cocktail Hour Under the Tree of Forgetfulness (non-fiction)  Alexandra Fuller
this tragicomic memoir focuses on the author's parents, white settlers on a farm in an Africa marching toward independence (sequel to Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight).

The Devotion of Suspect X (fiction)  Keigo Higashino
a veteran Japanese police detective and a physics professor match wits with a brilliant mathematician in this award-winning psychological thriller.

Dogs at the Perimeter (fiction)  Madeleine Thien
searching for her friend and mentor who has suddenly disappeared from Montreal, a woman revisits her childhood in Cambodia during the Khmer Rouge reign of terror.

The Dressmaker of Khair Khana (non-fiction)  Gayle Tzemach Lemmon
the incredible true story of an unlikely entrepreneur who mobilized her Kabul community under the Taliban and an intimate look at the daily lives of women in Afghanistan.

Far to Go (fiction)  Alison Pick
a mysterious present-day narrator reveals the story of an affluent Jewish couple and their 6-year-old son during the lead-up to the Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia.

Foreign Bodies (fiction)  Cynthia Ozick
the efforts of divorced American schoolteacher Bea Nightingale to navigate a turbulent year spent with her estranged brother's family in Paris.

Free World (fiction)  David Bezsmogis
it is 1978 and as family tensions continue to mount, the Krasnianskys, Soviet Jews who have fled to the west, are in Rome anxiously awaiting their visas.

Great House (fiction)  Nicole Krauss
an imposing antique desk resurfaces among numerous households oceans apart and embodies the memories and longings of those who possess it.

The Language of Flowers (fiction)  Vanessa Diffenbaugh
after a childhood spent in the foster care system, Victoria James uses flowers as a means of communication and redemption.

Natural Order (fiction)  Brian Francis
Joyce Sparks, a crotchety octogenarian in a nursing home, is offered the chance to face the one thing she’s avoided most of her life: the truth.

Pigeon English (fiction)  Stephan Kelman
11 year-old Harri, who has recently emigrated from Ghana to London's housing projects, finds wonder, mystery and danger in his new and expanding world.

Please Look After Mom (fiction)  Kyung-Sook Shin
a family's search for their mother, who goes missing in a crowded Seoul subway station, leads them to discovery of her heartaches and secrets and a new understanding of themselves.

The Sense of an Ending (fiction)  Julian Barnes
Tony Webster and his clique met Adrian Finn at school and vowed to remain friends forever; forty years later, an unexpected bequest compels him to re-examine those friendships and where they led.

Something Fierce (non-fiction)  Carmen Aguirre
gripping memoir by a Vancouver playwright of her teenage years in the 1980’s as an underground South American revolutionary during the Pinochet dictatorship.

The Story of Beautiful Girl (fiction)  Rachel Simon
a couple is locked away in an institution and a newborn is left in the care of a retired schoolteacher – the story of four separate lives joined by a secret pact and extraordinary love.

To the End of the Land (fiction)  David Grossman
Ora sets out on an epic hike in the Galilee just as her youngest son prepares for a major offensive with the Israeli Army; a mother's meditation on family and the terror of war.

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