A Beauty (fiction)  
Connie Gault  
when a stranger shows up at a country dance, it's not long before 18-year-old orphan Elena jumps into his Lincoln Roadster, leaving behind her small Saskatchewan town

Birdie (fiction)  
Tracey Lindberg  
Birdie, a Cree woman with a dark secret, has left her home in northern Alberta for Gibsons, BC on a vision quest; she’s looking for answers - and Jesse from 'The Beachcombers'

The Birthday Lunch (fiction)  
Joan Clark  
absorbing account of a family's first week coping with the sudden death of the woman who held them all together; surprising and beautiful

Close to Hugh (fiction)  
Marina Endicott  
gallery owner Hugh's fall from a ladder sets off a witty and thoughtful examination of the parallel worlds of two generations of family and friends

Daddy Lenin and Other Stories (fiction)  
Guy Vanderhaeghe  
in this dynamic collection, the author strips away people's layers to reveal deeper, and sometimes darker, truths; winner of the Governor General's Award for Fiction

Do You Think This is Strange? (fiction)  
Aaron Cully Drake  
Freddy has problems – some because he's autistic, most because he's a teenager; a humorous and heartbreaking coming-of-age story

The Evening Chorus (fiction)  
Helen Humphreys  
the story of three intertwined lives during WWII that serenades people brutally marked by war yet enduring to live and relish the small pleasures of another day

Girl Runner (fiction)  
Carrie Snyder  
two young strangers take 104 year-old Aganetha Smart on an outing from her nursing home that causes her to look back on her life as a former Olympic athlete

His Whole Life (fiction)  
Elizabeth Hay  
starting in 1995 when he is ten, this novel portrays the various things that happen in Jim's life and how he must learn 'to put it all together, death and life and things looming up'

The Illegal (fiction)  
Lawrence Hill  
Kelta Ali is on the run – both as a profession and to survive; an allegory that explores the lives of undocumented refugees struggling to exist in a nation that doesn't want them

The Mountain Story (fiction)  
Lori Lansens  
on his 18th birthday, Wolf goes to California's Mt. San Jacinto, intending to kill himself, and encounters a family of three women; the foursome become lost and only three will survive

The Night Bell (fiction)  
Inger Ash Wolfe  
DI Hazel Micallef must deal with three murders, a missing police officer and bones that seem to have come from a defunct Boys' Home, all in one small Ontario town

The Opening Sky (fiction)  
Joan Thomas  
the complacency of an urban, urbane and politically correct family is shattered when a past tragedy resurfaces; a sharply observed, unflinching portrait

The Optimistic Environmentalist (non-fiction)  
David Boyd  
chronicles environmental success stories from the past 50 years; inspires optimism, exemplifying how change can happen and showing readers how to take action

The Piano Maker (fiction)  
Kurt Palka  
what brings an enigmatic French woman to a small Nova Scotia town in the 1930s? what happens when it doesn't provide the sanctuary she seeks?

Precious Cargo (non-fiction)  
Craig Davidson  
Davidson takes us along for the ride during the year he spent driving a school bus for special needs kids, a year that changed his life

Stalin's Daughter (non-fiction)  
Rosemary Sullivan  
prize-winning biography of Svetlana Stalin, the only daughter of the Russian dictator; an intimate and revelatory account of a complicated woman doomed by her father's name

This Changes Everything (non-fiction)  
Naomi Klein  
Canadian political activist Klein explains how and why the climate change crisis is challenging us to abandon 'free market' ideology and restructure the global economy and reimagine our broken democracies

The Unquiet Dead (fiction)  
Ausma Zehanat Khan  
a death from an accidental fall warrants further investigation when Toronto detectives Rachel Getty and Esa Khattak discover the deceased, Christopher Drayton, is a wanted war criminal

The Winter Family (fiction)  
Cliff Jackman  
traces a group of ruthless outlaws from its genesis during the American Civil War to a final bloody stand in the Oklahoma territories; a 'hyperkinetic Western noir' and GG finalist

* also available in spoken word CD format

Burnaby Public Library  
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2016
WHEN YOU WANT TO THINK ABOUT IT

Becoming Nicole (non-fiction)  Amy Ellis Nutt
inspiring true story of a family and community's journey to understand and nurture a twin boy who was really a girl; 'profoundly moving'

The Book of Aron (fiction)  Jim Shepard
life in Warsaw's Jewish ghetto during WWII as experienced by 13 year-old Aron who ends up at the orphanage run there by Janusz Korczak, a real figure

The Boys in the Boat (non-fiction)  *  Daniel James Brown
how nine working-class boys from Washington State beat the odds and went on to row for America in the Berlin Summer Olympics in 1936

Did You Ever Have a Family (fiction)  *  Bill Clegg
on the eve of her daughter's wedding, a shocking disaster leaves June Reid the only survivor but community can emerge through shared heartbreak

Girl at War (fiction)  Sara Novic
haunted by the civil war that forever changed her family, 20 year-old Ana returns to Croatia after a decade away

The Golden Son (fiction)  *  Shilpi Gowda
two childhood friends in rural India follow different paths; a story of family, friendship and love that explores cultural differences on many levels

H is for Hawk (non-fiction)  *  Helen Macdonald
naturalist and falconer Macdonald adopts and trains a goshawk, a notoriously difficult bird, as a way to cope with her father's death

Inside the O'Briens (fiction)  *  Lisa Genova
another medical novel from award-winning author and neuroscientist Genova, this time exploring Huntington's disease through its effect on Joe O'Brien and his family

A Little Life (fiction)  *  Hanya Yanagihara
follows four college classmates as they move to New York to find fame and fortune; their centre is Jude, a man deeply scarred by sexual abuse in childhood

The Meursault Investigation (fiction)  Kamel Daoud
a reimagining of Camus' 'The Stranger' from the point of view of the Arab victim; a profound meditation on Arab identity and colonialism

Orhan's Inheritance (fiction)  Aline Ohanesian
on his father's death, Orhan inherits his Turkish family's rug-making business but the family home has been left to a stranger in an LA retirement home

Rain: A Natural and Cultural History (non-fiction)  Cynthia Barnett
roams the world as it explores the science of rain and its influence on agriculture, religion and the arts; a natural for Vancouverites

Red Notice (non-fiction)  Bill Browder
a Wall Street maverick who made his fortune in Russia after the breakup of the USSR, Browder ran headlong into the corruption of the Putin regime

The Soul of an Octopus (non-fiction)  *  Sy Montgomery
the emotional and physical world of the octopus – a surprisingly complex, intelligent and spirited creature – and the remarkable connections it makes with humans

Speak (fiction)  Louisa Hall
explores how the chasm between computer and human – shrinking rapidly – echoes the gaps that can exist between ordinary people; 'strange, beautiful and unputdownable'

The Sympathizer (fiction)  Viet Thanh Nguyen
a supposed South Vietnamese army captain is really a communist sleeper agent during the fall of Saigon and after in America; Pulitzer Prize winner

The Turner House (fiction)  Angela Flournoy
the story of the thirteen children of Francis and Viola Turner who now have to decide what to do with the family home in east-side Detroit

The Tusk That Did the Damage (fiction)  Tania James
plumbs the moral complexities of the ivory trade through the eyes of a native poacher, a documentary film maker and an infamously elephant known as the Gravedigger

The Weather Experiment (non-fiction)  Peter Moore
the fascinating tale of the 19th century mavericks who pioneered the science of meteorology or weather forecasting

* also available in spoken word CD format
JUST FOR FUN

13 Ways of Looking at a Fat Girl (fiction)  
Mona Awad
thirteen slices of Lizzie's life as she navigates our body-obsessed culture; as caustically funny as it is heartbreaking

2 am at The Cat's Pajamas (fiction)  
Marie-Helene Bertino
three lost souls, including 9 year-old Madeleine, wind up at The Cat's Pajamas, a Philadelphia jazz club, on a snowy Christmas Eve

All of Us and Everything (fiction)  
Bridget Asher
the Rockwell sisters return to the family home after a hurricane, only to have their eccentric mother reveal a long-concealed secret

Be Frank with Me (fiction)  
Julia Claiborne Johnson
editorial assistant Alice Whitley is dispatched to LA to care for Frank, a rather odd 9 year-old, so his mother, a reclusive literary legend, can finish her novel

Between You and Me (non-fiction)  
Mary Norris
Norris, copy editor at 'The New Yorker' for over thirty years, dispenses good grammar advice punctuated with hilarious reminiscences

The Big Rewind (fiction)  
Libby Cudmore
Brooklyn hipsters Jett and her best friend Sid set out to discover the killer of their friend KitKat, their only clue a mysterious mix tape

The Clasp (fiction)  
Sloane Crosby
madcap adventure of three New York friends reunited in a search for a necklace that disappeared during the Nazi occupation of France

Eight Hundred Grapes (fiction)  
Laura Dave
a week before her wedding, Georgia discovers a secret her fiancé has been keeping from her and flees home to the family winery in Sonoma

History of the Rain (fiction)  
Niall Williams
home to County Clare from college after a collapse, the bedridden daughter of a dead poet is trying to understand her father through his books and through family stories handed down over generations

How to Start a Fire (fiction)  
Lisa Lutz
a deeply funny and profoundly moving exploration of female friendship as three intelligent, distinctive and very real women look back over the past twenty years

I Take You (fiction)  
Eliza Kennedy
as lawyer Lily's wedding fast approaches, she starts to wonder if she is really ready to give up her life of partying, easy sex and questionable decisions

Kitchens of the Great Midwest (fiction)  
J. Ryan Stradal
the story of Eva's unusual journey to become the iconic chef behind the country's most coveted dinner reservation; 'ingenious and startlingly original'

Man at the Helm (fiction)  
Nina Stibbe
Lizzie and her sister decide to write away for a new husband for their recently divorced mother who seems to be increasingly out of control

Modern Romance (non-fiction)  
Aziz Ansari
comedian Ansari combines his irreverent humour with cutting-edge social science to give an unforgettable tour of our new romantic world

The Monopolists (non-fiction)  
Mary Pilon
fascinating history of the game of Monopoly revealing its little known origins and chequered past; legal thriller, folk history and exposé of corporate greed all rolled into one

The Nest (fiction)  
Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney
funny and perceptive novel about four adult siblings and the fate of the trust fund that has shaped many of their choices in life – most of them dysfunctional

The Readers of Broken Wheel Recommend (fiction)  
Katarina Bivald
Sara travels from Sweden to the tiny town of Broken Wheel, Iowa to finally meet her pen pal and fellow book lover Amy, only to find Amy has suddenly died

This is Your Life, Harriet Chance! (fiction)  
Jonathan Evison
78 year-old Harriet, newly widowed, impulsively sets sail on an Alaskan cruise that turns into a revelatory journey into her past

The Unspeakable (non-fiction)  
Meghan Daum
combining insight with humour, Daum pushes back against the sentimentality and platitudes that surround much of contemporary Western life in ten personal essays

A Window Opens (fiction)  
Elisabeth Egan
her balancing act turns into a three-ring circus when Alice – wife, mother of three and part-time editor – lands what seems to be her dream job

* also available in spoken word CD format
When You Want to Get Away

Barbarian Days: A Surfing Life (non-fiction)  William Finnegan
Finnegan's memoir of his obsession with surfing; he started the sport as a child in California and Hawaii and has chased waves all over the world; Pulitzer Prize winner

The Book of Strange New Things (fiction)  Michel Faber
Peter, a devoted man of faith, is called to the mission of a lifetime – bringing the Bible to a population that is galaxies away from his home and his wife

Burnt Toast Makes You Sing Good (non-fiction)  Kathleen Flinn
A family history peppered with recipes, this humorous tale spanning three generations by food journalist Flinn shows how meals can be memories

Circling the Midnight Sun (non-fiction)  James Raffan
Raffan travelled the Arctic Circle over the course of three years and the result is this affecting story of societies and landscapes in the throes of enormous change

Daughters of the Samurai (non-fiction)  Janice Nimura
In 1871, five young girls from samurai families were sent by the Japanese government to the US to learn Western ways, with the intent that they return home and teach them to their future sons

Dead Wake (non-fiction)  Erik Larson
Gripping story of the sinking of the luxury ocean liner Lusitania by a German U-boat in WWI; 'page-turning history' by a modern master

Girl Waits with Gun (fiction)  Amy Stewart
A dispute over an accident turns into a feud between a powerful factory owner and the Kopp sisters in 1914 rural New Jersey; a romping adventure based on a true story

The Incarnations (fiction)  Susan Barker
A Beijing taxi driver is haunted by letters from a mysterious soulmate that are filled with the stories of the previous lives they have shared over the past 1000 years

Jade Dragon Mountain (fiction)  Elsa Hart
Exiled imperial librarian Li Du is persuaded to investigate the death of a Jesuit astronomer in 1708 during the Chinese Emperor’s visit to the border town of Dayan for an eclipse

Leaving Berlin (fiction)  Joseph Kanon
Alex Meier is coerced into becoming a spy for the CIA in postwar East Berlin in this 'thought-provoking, pulse-pounding' thriller

Losing the Light (fiction)  Andrea Dunlop
A chance encounter has Brooke remembering her exchange year in France – a year that involved deep friendship, a passionate love triangle and a mysterious disappearance

The Miniaturist (fiction)  Jessie Burton
In 1686, 18-year-old bride Nella is ignored by her new husband, a wealthy Amsterdam merchant, who instead gives her a miniature replica of their own cloistered home

The Moor's Account (fiction)  Laila Lalami
The imagined memoirs of the real African slave of a real Spanish explorer; they, along with two noblemen, were the only survivors of a 1527 Spanish expedition to Florida

Mrs. Engels (fiction)  Gavin McCrea
Lizzie Burns – illiterate Irish factory worker and longtime lover, and eventual wife, of the coauthor of the Communist Manifesto – narrates their story in a voice that you won't soon forget

Mysterious Fragrance of the Yellow Mountains (fiction)  Yasuko Thanh
In 1908 French Saigon, a Paris-educated Vietnamese doctor becomes part of an assassination attempt against the occupiers that goes terribly wrong

Overbooked (non-fiction)  Elizabeth Becker
Becker describes 'the exploding business of travel and tourism' and its huge effect on the world economy, the environment and cultures in every corner of the globe

Skyfaring (non-fiction)  Mark Vanhoenacker
A poetic and nuanced exploration of the human experience of flight by a 747 pilot; 'reawakens our capacity to be amazed'

Trigger Warning (fiction)  Neil Gaiman
An anthology of short fiction that pierces the veil of reality to reveal the enigmatic and fantastical world that lies beneath; 'a treasury of delights'

Vanessa and Her Sister (fiction)  Priya Parmar
The fictional diary of painter Vanessa Bell, sister of Virginia Woolf, opens in 1905 when they are still the inseparable Stephen girls, newly moved to Bloomsbury

The Wolf Border (fiction)  Sarah Hall
Zoologist Rachel Caine, a work-obsessed loner, is persuaded to spearhead the eccentric Earl of Annerdale’s project to reintroduce the grey wolf to his English estate

* also available in spoken word CD format
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before the Wind (fiction)</td>
<td>Jim Lynch</td>
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<tr>
<td>sailing-obsessed family finally reunite for a long-distance race in Puget Sound using a vessel they built decades ago</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Children's Crusade (fiction)</td>
<td>Ann Packer</td>
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<tr>
<td>five decades in the Blair family – physician Bill, wife Penny and their four children who in 1954 buy three acres in what will become Silicon Valley</td>
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<td>Circling the Sun (fiction)</td>
<td>Paula McLain</td>
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<td>fictional memoir of Beryl Markham, one of the outside women of colonial Kenya – renowned horsewoman, world famous aviator, fiercely independent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dept. of Speculation (fiction)</td>
<td>Jenny Offill</td>
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<td>charts the course of a marriage through shimmering fragments of prose written by an unnamed wife, mother and author</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disclaimer (fiction)</td>
<td>Renee Knight</td>
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<tr>
<td>psychological thriller about a woman who receives a mysterious book that is all about a secret she has tried to keep hidden for the past fifteen years</td>
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<td>The Diver's Clothes Lie Empty (fiction)</td>
<td>Vendela Vida</td>
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<td>a woman who has just had her ID stolen in Morocco takes a job as a body-double for a movie star – both on-set and off</td>
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<td>Girl Through Glass (fiction)</td>
<td>Sari Wilson</td>
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<td>two intertwined stories - one in 1977, one in the present – explore the high pressure world of professional ballet</td>
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<td>The Good Liar (fiction)</td>
<td>Nicholas Searle</td>
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<td>veteran con artist Roy thinks he's spotted an obvious easy mark in wealthy widow Betty but has he?</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Green Road (fiction)</td>
<td>Anne Enright</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rosaleen's adult children come home to rural Ireland for Christmas only to hear that she intends to sell the family home</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miss Emily (fiction)</td>
<td>Nuala O'Connor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emily Dickinson's life is reimagined through her own voice and that of her spirited Irish maid as the two strike up a friendship</td>
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<td>My Sunshine Away (fiction)</td>
<td>M. O. Walsh</td>
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<tr>
<td>juxtaposes the enchantment of a charmed childhood with a violent crime, unraveling families and young love in 1989 Louisiana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nora Webster (fiction)</td>
<td>Colm Toibin</td>
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<td>in a small town in Ireland in the 1960's, a young widow and mother of four moves from grief and fear to unexpected self-discovery</td>
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<tr>
<td>On the Move (non-fiction)</td>
<td>Oliver Sacks</td>
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<tr>
<td>an impassioned, tender and often surprising memoir by the brilliant and unconventional physician and writer who died last year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Our Souls at Night (fiction)</td>
<td>Kent Haruf</td>
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<tr>
<td>an achingly beautiful novel about two elderly neighbours in Holt, Colorado who bravely enter an unconventional relationship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outline (fiction)</td>
<td>Rachel Cusk</td>
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<td>a portrait of a woman and her life is created through the various conversations she has while teaching a one week creative writing course; 'intelligent' and 'ingenious'</td>
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<tr>
<td>Some Luck (fiction)</td>
<td>Jane Smiley</td>
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<tr>
<td>this first volume in Smiley's epic trilogy, covering America's past century through the history of the Langdon family, starts in 1920 on an Iowa farm</td>
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<tr>
<td>A Spool of Blue Thread (fiction)</td>
<td>Anne Tyler</td>
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<tr>
<td>one of Tyler's dysfunctional Baltimore family stories in which she so deftly turns sitcom situations into something far deeper and more moving</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Summer of Good Intentions (fiction)</td>
<td>Wendy Francis</td>
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<td>everything falls apart when three sisters and their families come together for their annual summer vacation on Cape Cod</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Swimmer (fiction)</td>
<td>Joakim Zander</td>
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<tr>
<td>a deep-cover CIA agent races across Europe to save the daughter he never knew, now an EU Parliamentary aide who has seen something she shouldn't, in this electrifying thriller</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Widow (fiction)</td>
<td>Fiona Barton</td>
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<tr>
<td>a reporter and a policeman try to get the truth from the widow of a man accused of kidnapping and killing a toddler</td>
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