

North State Cooperative Library System's Book Club in a Box **Program List of Titles (10/2016)**

All Over but the Shoutin' by Rick Bragg

16 Copies

This haunting, harrowing, gloriously moving recollection of a life on the American margin is the story of Rick Bragg, who grew up dirt-poor in northeastern Alabama, seemingly destined for either the cotton mills or the penitentiary, and instead became a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter for *The New York Times*. It is the story of Bragg's father, a hard-drinking man with a murderous temper and the habit of running out on the people who needed him most. But at the center of this soaring memoir is Bragg's mother, who went eighteen years without a new dress so that her sons could have school clothes and picked other people's cotton so that her children wouldn't have to live on welfare alone. (*Amazon.com*)

American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang

13 Copies

Gene Yang's intelligent and emotionally challenging *American Born Chinese* is made up of three individual plotlines: the determined efforts of the Chinese folk hero Monkey King to shed his humble roots and be revered as a god; the struggles faced by Jin Wang, a lonely Asian American middle school student who would do anything to fit in with his white classmates; and the sitcom plight of Danny, an All-American teen so shamed by his Chinese cousin Chin-Kee that he is forced to change schools. Each story works well on its own, but Yang engineers a clever convergence of these parallel tales into a powerful climax that destroys the hateful stereotype of Chin-Kee, while leaving both Jin Wang and the Monkey King satisfied and happy to be who they are. (*Amazon.com*)

Angle of Repose by Wallace Stegner

5 Copies

Lyman Ward is a retired professor of history, recently confined to a wheelchair by a crippling bone disease and dependent on others for his every need. Amid the chaos of 1970s counterculture he retreats to his ancestral home of Grass Valley, California, to write the biography of his grandmother: an elegant and headstrong artist and pioneer who, together with her engineer husband, made her own journey through the hardscrabble West nearly a hundred years before. In discovering her story he excavates his own, probing the shadows of his experience and the America that has come of age around him. (*Amazon.com*)

Assembling California by John McPhee

3 copies

As an explainer, John McPhee is a national treasure. The longtime "New Yorker" staff writer has taken us inside the world of art museums, environmental groups, fruit markets, airship factories, basketball courts, and atomic-bomb labs the world over. Here he covers the complex geological history of California, the source of much news today. As Californians daily await the inevitable great earthquake that will send their cities tumbling down like so many matchsticks, McPhee piles fact on luminous fact, wrestling raw data into a beautifully written narrative that gainsays a sedimentologist's warning: "You can't cope with this in an organized way," he told McPhee, "because the rocks aren't organized." (*Amazon.com*)

Atonement by Ian McEwan

16 Copies / 2 Book on CD

On a hot summer day in 1935, thirteen-year-old Briony Tallis witnesses a moment's flirtation between her older sister, Cecilia, and Robbie Turner, the son of a servant and Cecilia's childhood friend. But Briony's incomplete grasp of adult motives—together with her precocious literary gifts—brings about a crime that will change all their lives. (*Amazon.com*)

[Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress by Dai Sijie \(Translated by Ina Rilke\)](#) 9 copies

An immediate international bestseller, it tells the story of two hapless city boys exiled to a remote mountain village for reeducation during China's infamous Cultural Revolution. There the two friends meet the daughter of the local tailor & discover a hidden stash of Western classics in Chinese translation. As they flirt with the seamstress & secretly devour these banned works, the two friends find transit from their grim surroundings to worlds they never imagined. (*Amazon.com*)

[Barrio Boy by Ernesto Galarza and Julian Samora](#) 13 Copies

Barrio Boy is the remarkable story of one boy's journey from a Mexican village to the barrio of Sacramento, California, bustling & thriving in the early decades of the twentieth century. When the turmoil precipitated by the Mexican Revolution begins to escalate, the family leaves their tiny village in search of safety & work in a nearby city. Subsequent moves introduce the boy to the growing turbulence of the Revolution & the uncertainties of city life. (*New York Review of Books*)

[The Bean Trees by Barbara Kingsolver](#) 7 copies

It is the charming, engrossing tale of rural Kentucky native Taylor Greer, who only wants to get away from her roots & avoid getting pregnant. She succeeds, but inherits a 3-year-old native-American girl named Turtle along the way. Together, from Oklahoma to Tucson, Arizona, half-Cherokee Taylor & her charge search for a new life in the West. Written with humor & pathos, this highly praised novel focuses on love & friendship, abandonment and belonging as Taylor, out of money and seemingly out of options, settles in dusty Tucson & begins working at Jesus Is Lord Used Tires while trying to make a life for herself & Turtle. (*BarnesAndNoble.com*)

[Bee Season by Myla Goldberg](#) 8 Copies/1 Book on Tape

Eliza Naumann, a seemingly unremarkable nine-year-old, expects never to fit into her gifted family: her autodidact father, Saul, absorbed in his study of Jewish mysticism; her brother, Aaron, the vessel of his father's spiritual ambitions; and her brilliant but distant lawyer-mom, Miriam. But when Eliza sweeps her school and district spelling bees in quick succession, Saul takes it as a sign that she is destined for greatness. In this altered reality, Saul inducts her into his hallowed study and lavishes upon her the attention previously reserved for Aaron, who in his displacement embarks upon a lone quest for spiritual fulfillment. When Miriam's secret life triggers a familial explosion, it is Eliza who must order the chaos. (*Amazon.com*)

[Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End by Atul Gawande](#) 5 Copies

Medicine has triumphed in modern times, transforming birth, injury, and infectious disease from harrowing to manageable. But in the inevitable condition of aging and death, the goals of medicine seem too frequently to run counter to the interest of the human spirit. Nursing homes, preoccupied with safety, pin patients into railed beds and wheelchairs. Hospitals isolate the dying, checking for vital signs long after the goals of cure have become moot. Doctors, committed to extending life, continue to carry out devastating procedures that in the end extend suffering. Gawande, a practicing surgeon, addresses his profession's ultimate limitation, arguing that quality of life is the desired goal for patients and families. Gawande offers examples of freer, more socially fulfilling models for assisting the infirm and dependent elderly, and he explores the varieties of hospice care to demonstrate that a person's last weeks or months may be rich and dignified. Full of eye-opening research and riveting storytelling, *Being Mortal* asserts that medicine can comfort and enhance our experience even to the end, providing not only a good life but also a good end.

Bel Canto by Ann Patchett

11 Copies

Readers curious about the emotional flow between hostages and their takers should cotton to this novel based on the 1996 Tupac Amaru takeover of the Japanese ambassadorial residence in Lima, Peru. It traces the hostages' adjusting attitudes during the torpor of a months-long siege. Relief from their tedium takes the form of luscious world-class soprano Roxane Coss, who had been entertaining an international assortment of diplomats and businesspersons when the terrorists took the Peruvian vice president's house. (*Booklist - Reviewed June 1, 2001*)

The Big Year by Mark Obmascik

12 Copies

Every January 1, a quirky crowd storms out across North America for a spectacularly competitive event called a Big Year—a grand, expensive, and occasionally vicious 365-day marathon of birdwatching. For three men in particular, 1998 would become a grueling battle for a new North American birding record. Bouncing from coast to coast on frenetic pilgrimages for once-in-a-lifetime rarities, they brave broiling deserts, bug-infested swamps, and some of the lumpiest motel mattresses known to man. This unprecedented year of beat-the-clock adventures ultimately leads one man to a record so gigantic that it is unlikely ever to be bested. Here, prizewinning journalist Mark Obmascik creates a dazzling, fun narrative of the 275,000-mile odyssey of these three obsessives as they fight to win the greatest- or maybe worst- birding contest of all time. (*Amazon.com*)

Black Dog of Fate by Peter Balakian

16 Copies

The author of four volumes of verse, Peter Balakian writes with the precision of a poet and the lyricism of a privileged suburban child in 1950s New Jersey. He is shadowed by his relatives' carefully guarded memories of past trauma: the brutal Turkish extermination in 1915 of more than a million Armenians, including most of his maternal grandmother's family. Balakian seamlessly interweaves personal and historical material to depict one young man's reclamation of his heritage and to scathingly indict the political forces that conspired to sweep under the rug the 20th century's first genocide. (*Amazon.com*)

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

15 Copies/ 1 Book on CD

It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will become busier still. Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement. (*Amazon.com*)

Boy Who Harnessed the Wind by William Kamkwamba

19 copies

Discarded motor parts, PVC pipe, and an old bicycle wheel may be junk to most people, but in the inspired hands of William Kamkwamba, they are instruments of opportunity. Growing up amid famine and poverty in rural Malawi, wind was one of the few abundant resources available, and the inventive fourteen-year-old saw its energy as a way to power his dreams. "With a windmill, we'd finally release ourselves from the troubles of darkness and hunger," he realized. "A windmill meant more than just power, it was freedom." Despite the biting jeers of village skeptics, young William devoted himself to borrowed textbooks and salvage yards in pursuit of a device that could produce an "electric wind." (*Amazon.com*)

The Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown

8 copies

It was an unlikely quest from the start. With a team composed of the sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the University of Washington's eight-oar crew team was never expected to defeat the elite teams of the East Coast and Great Britain, yet they did, going on to shock the world by defeating the German team rowing for

Adolf Hitler. The emotional heart of the tale lies with Joe Rantz, a teenager without family or prospects, who rows not only to regain his shattered self-regard but also to find a real place for himself in the world. (*Amazon.com*)

Bridges of Madison County by Robert James Waller

10 copies

This is the story of Robert Kincaid, the photographer and free spirit searching for the covered bridges of Madison County, and Francesca Johnson, the farm wife waiting for fulfillment of a girlhood dream. It shows readers what it is to love and be loved so intensely that life is never the same again. (*Amazon.com*)

California Uncovered edited by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni

9 copies

Hear and feel this dynamic California in the words of established writers like John Steinbeck, Maxine Hong Kingston, and Joan Didion, as well as compelling new voices that reveal California in all its complexity. California Uncovered is a central component of the California Stories Uncovered campaign- a statewide program sponsored by the California Council for the Humanities designed to inspire people to tell and listen to stories that get at the reality beneath the headlines, statistics, and stereotypes about the state and its people. (*Amazon.com*)

The Coffee Trader by David Liss

8 Copies

Price-fixing and stock market manipulation may sound like the makings of a modern Wall Street thriller. But in the case of David Liss's second novel, the setting is the Amsterdam stock exchange in 1659, where Miguel Lienzo, a Jew recently resettled from Portugal, struggles to save his name & fortune in the face of unscrupulous commodity traders, family rivalries, tension between Jews & Christians, and infighting within the community of Portuguese Jews escaping the Inquisition. The story is fascinating for its account of seventeenth-century Dutch society & coffee's introduction to Europe. (*Amazon.com*)

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon

17 Copies/ 1 Book on CD

Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. He cannot stand to be touched. And he detests the color yellow. This improbable story of Christopher's quest to investigate the suspicious death of a neighborhood dog makes for one of the most captivating, unusual, and widely heralded novels in recent years. (*Amazon.com*)

Daisy Bates in the Desert by Julia Blackburn

9 copies

Blackburn here presents a biography of the extraordinarily determined and independent Daisy Bates who, in 1913, at age 54, removed herself from England to Australia's red desert outback as a self-appointed champion of the Aborigines. She remained there until her death in 1956. She not only shared the Aborigines way of life but so gained their confidence that she was made privy to the men's secret rites. The author traces Bates's steps and draws on her voluminous notebooks and letters, which reveal her as an acute observer of nature and a gifted writer whose works were imbued with dreams and hallucinations. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. (*Publishers Weekly*)

Desert God by Wilbur Smith

9 Copies

On the gleaming banks of the Nile, the brilliant Taita—slave and advisor to the Pharaoh—finds himself at the center of a vortex of passion, intrigue, and danger. His quest to destroy the Hyksos army and form an alliance with Crete takes him on an epic journey up the Nile, through Arabia and the magical city of Babylon, and across the open seas. With the future of Egypt itself on his shoulders, Taita enters a world where the line between loyalty

and betrayal shifts like the desert sands, evil enemies await in the shadows, and death lingers on the edges of darkness. (*Amazon.com*)

Digging to America by Anne Tyler

6 copies

Two families, who would otherwise never have come together, meet by chance at the Baltimore airport- the Donaldsons, a very American couple, & the Yazdans, Maryam's fully assimilated son and his attractive Iranian wife. Each couple is awaiting the arrival of an adopted infant daughter from Korea. After the instant babies from distant Asia are delivered, Bitsy Donaldson impulsively invites the Yazdans to celebrate: an "arrival party" that from then on is repeated every year as the two families become more and more deeply intertwined. Even Maryam is drawn in – up to a point. When she finds herself being courted by Bitsy Donaldson's recently widowed father, all the values she cherishes – her traditions, her privacy, her otherness—are suddenly threatened. (*Amazon.com*)

The Distance Between us by Reyna Grande

12 Copies

As her parents make the dangerous trek across the Mexican border to "El Otro Lado" (The Other Side) in pursuit of the American dream, Reyna and her siblings are forced into the already overburdened household of their stern grandmother. When their mother at last returns, Reyna prepares for her own journey to "El Otro Lado" to live with the man who has haunted her imagination for years, her long-absent father. (*Simon and Schuster*)

The Dive from Clausen's Pier by Ann Packer

10 copies

At the age of twenty-three Carrie Bell has spent her entire life in Wisconsin, with the same best friend and the same dependable, easygoing, high school sweetheart. Now to her dismay she has begun to find this life suffocating and is considering leaving it—and Mike—behind. But when Mike is paralyzed in a diving accident, leaving seems unforgivable and yet more necessary than ever. (*Amazon.com*)

Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight by Alexandra Fuller

11 Copies

A classic is born in this tender, intensely moving and even delightful journey through a white African girl's childhood. Born in England and now living in Wyoming, Fuller was conceived and bred on African soil during the Rhodesian civil war (1971-1979), a world where children over five "learn[ed] how to load an FN rifle magazine, strip and clean all the guns in the house, and ultimately, shoot-to-kill." With a unique and subtle sensitivity to racial issues, Fuller describes her parents' racism and the wartime relationships between blacks and whites through a child's watchful eyes. Fuller's remarkable affection for her parents (who are racists) and her homeland (brutal under white and black rule) shines through. This affection, in spite of its subjects' prominent flaws, reveals their humanity and allows the reader direct entry into her world. Fuller's book has the promise of being widely read and remaining of interest for years to come. (*Publisher's Weekly*)

Dreaming in Cuban by Cristina Garcia

12 Copies

Here is the dreamy and bittersweet story of a family divided by politics and geography by the Cuban revolution. It is the family story of Celia del Pino, & her husband, daughter and grandchildren, from the mid-1930s to 1980. Celia's story mirrors the magical realism of Cuba itself, a country of beauty and poverty, idealism & corruption. (*Amazon.com*)

East of Eden by John Steinbeck

13 Copies

This sprawling and often brutal novel, set in the rich farmlands of California's Salinas Valley, follows the intertwined destinies of two families--the Trasks and the Hamiltons--whose generations helplessly reenact the fall of Adam and Eve and the poisonous rivalry of Cain and Abel. (*Amazon.com*)

Eat, Pray, Love by Elizabeth Gilbert 14 Copies/ 1 Large Print/ 1 Book on CD

In her early thirties, Elizabeth Gilbert had everything a modern American woman was supposed to want—husband, country home, successful career—but instead of feeling happy and fulfilled, she was consumed by panic and confusion. This wise and rapturous book is the story of how she left behind all these outward marks of success, and set out to explore three different aspects of her nature, against the backdrop of three different cultures: pleasure in Italy, devotion in India, and on the Indonesian island of Bali, a balance between worldly enjoyment and divine transcendence. (*Amazon.com*)

Empire Falls by Richard Russo 30 Copies

Miles Roby has been slinging burgers at the Empire Grill for 20 years, a job that cost him his college education and much of his self-respect. What keeps him there? It could be his bright, sensitive daughter Tick, who needs all his help surviving the local high school. Or maybe it's Janine, Miles' soon-to-be ex-wife, who's taken up with a noxiously vain health-club proprietor. Or perhaps it's the imperious Francine Whiting, who owns everything in town—and seems to believe that "everything" includes Miles himself. (*Amazon.com*)

English Creek by Ivan Doig 13 Copies

The summer of his 14th year brings challenges & changes to Jick McCaskill and his family. Jick's older brother decides not to attend college, becoming a cowboy instead; a fire in Two Medicine National Forest threatens to destroy the community; and, by summer's end, Jick has learned the secret his father and an old campjack have kept from the rest of the community," (*Amazon.com*)

English Passengers by Matthew Kneale 7 copies

In 1857 when Captain Illiam Quillian Kewley & his band of rum smugglers from the Isle of Man have most of their contraband confiscated by British Customs, they are forced to put their ship up for charter. The only takers are two eccentric Englishmen who want to embark for the other side of the globe. The Reverend Geoffrey Wilson believes the Garden of Eden was on the island of Tasmania. His traveling partner, Dr. Thomas Potter, unbeknownst to Wilson, is developing a sinister thesis about the races of men. Meanwhile, an aboriginal in Tasmania named Peevay recounts his people's struggles against the invading British, a story that begins in 1824, moves into the present with approach of the English passengers in 1857, & extends into the future in 1870. (*Amazon.com*)

Epitaph for a Peach by David Mas Masumoto 26 Copies

Tells the passionate story of one farmer's attempt to rescue one of the last truly sweet and juicy fruits from becoming obsolete in a world that increasingly values commerciality over quality. The story of Mas Masumoto's Sun Crest peaches begins on the day he turns the bulldozers away from his orchards and vows to give himself four seasons to find a home for the fruits of his labor. At once a deeply personal story, a sharp commentary about the state of American agriculture, a lighthearted rhapsody of nature, and an intimate glimpse into the Asian American experience, Epitaph for a Peach is about saving a peach, saving a farm, saving a family, saving a way of life--it is a story about finding "home."(*Amazon.com*)

Ether Day by J.M. Fenster 7 copies

On Friday, October 16, 1846 only one operation was scheduled at Massachusetts General Hospital. That day in Boston, the operation was the routine removal of a growth from a man's neck. But one thing would not be routine: instead of using pulleys, hooks, & belts to subdue a patient writhing in pain, this crucial operation would be the first performed under a general anesthetic. No one knew whether the secret concoction would work. Some even feared it might kill the patient. This engrossing book chronicles what happened that day & during its dramatic

aftermath. In a vivid history that is stranger than fiction, *Ether Day* tells the story of the three men who converged to invent the first anesthesia- and the war of ego & greed that soon sent all three men spiraling wildly out of control. (*Amazon.com*)

[Ethics for the New Millennium by His Holiness the Dali Lama](#) 21 Copies

Regardless of the violence and cynicism we see on television and read about in the news, there is an argument to be made for basic human goodness. The number of people who spend their lives engaged in violence and dishonesty is tiny compared to the vast majority who would wish others only well. According to the Dalai Lama, our survival has depended and will continue to depend on our basic goodness. *Ethics for the New Millennium* presents a moral system based on universal rather than religious principles. Its ultimate goal is happiness for every individual, irrespective of religious beliefs. (*Amazon.com*)

[Everything is Illuminated by Jonathan Safran Foer](#) 5 copies

With only a yellowing photograph in hand, a young man -- also named Jonathan Safran Foer -- sets out to find the woman who may or may not have saved his grandfather from the Nazis. Accompanied by an old man haunted by memories of the war; an amorous dog named Sammy Davis, Junior, Junior; and the unforgettable Alex, a young Ukrainian translator who speaks in a sublimely butchered English, Jonathan is led on a quixotic journey over a devastated landscape and into an unexpected past. (*Amazon.com*)

[F is for Fugitive by Sue Grafton](#) 35 Copies

Everyone knew the kind of girl Jean Timberlake was -- ask anybody in the sleepy surf town of Floral Beach and they'd say Jean was wild, looking for trouble. But she certainly wasn't looking for murder. She was found dead on the beach seventeen years ago, and a rowdy ex-boyfriend named Bailey Fowler was convicted of her murder and imprisoned -- and then Bailey escaped. Now private eye Kinsey Millhone steps into a case that should have never been closed, in a town where there's no such thing as a private investigation. (*Amazon.com*)

[Fast Food Nation by Eric Schlosser](#) 6 copies

Fast food has hastened the malling of our landscape, widened the chasm between rich and poor, fueled an epidemic of obesity, and propelled American cultural imperialism abroad. That's a lengthy list of charges, but Eric Schlosser makes them stick with an artful mix of first-rate reportage, wry wit, and careful reasoning. Schlosser's myth-shattering survey stretches from California's subdivisions, where the business was born, to the industrial corridor along the New Jersey Turnpike, where many of fast food's flavors are concocted. Along the way, he unearths a trove of fascinating, unsettling truths- from the unholy alliance between fast food and Hollywood to the seismic changes the industry has wrought in food production, popular culture, and even real estate. (*Goodreads*)

[Field Notes from a Catastrophe by Elizabeth Kolbert](#) 20 Copies

Expanding on a 3-part series for the *New Yorker*, Kolbert lets facts rather than polemics tell the story: in essence, it's that Earth is now nearly as warm as it has been at any time in the last 420,000 years and is on the precipice of an unprecedented "climate regime, one with which modern humans have had no prior experience." An inexorable increase in the world's average temperature means that butterflies, which typically restrict themselves to well-defined climate zones, are now flitting where they've never been found before; that nearly every major glacier in the world is melting rapidly; and that the prescient Dutch are already preparing to let rising oceans reclaim some of their land. (*Publishers Weekly*)

Flight Behavior by Barbara Kingsolver

5 copies/2 BOCD

Flight Behavior is a brilliant and suspenseful novel set in present day Appalachia; a breathtaking parable of catastrophe and denial that explores how the complexities we inevitably encounter in life lead us to believe in our particular chosen truths. Kingsolver's riveting story concerns a young wife and mother on a failing farm in rural Tennessee who experiences something she cannot explain, and how her discovery energizes various competing factions—religious leaders, climate scientists, environmentalists, politicians—trapping her in the center of the conflict and ultimately opening up her world. (*Amazon.com*)

French Lessons by Peter Mayle

12 Copies/ 1 Book on CD

Peter Mayle brings another delightful (and delicious) account of the good life, this time exploring the gustatory pleasures to be found throughout France. (*Amazon.com*)

From the Notebooks of Dr. Brain by Minister Faust

12 copies

Having finally defeated all archenemies, the members of the Fantastic Order of Justice are reduced to engaging in toxic office politics that could very well lead to a superpowered civil war. Only one woman can save them from themselves: Dr. Eva Brain-Silverman, aka Dr. Brain, the world's leading therapist for the extraordinarily abled. (*Amazon.com*)

Furiously Happy by Jenny Lawson

14 Copies / 1 BOCD

A hysterical, ridiculous book about crippling depression and anxiety? That sounds like a *terrible* idea. But terrible ideas are what Jenny does best. [...] Lawson is beloved around the world for her inimitable humor and honesty, and in *Furiously Happy*, she is at her snort-inducing funniest. This is a book about embracing everything that makes us who we are - the beautiful and the flawed - and then using it to find joy in fantastic and outrageous ways. Because as Jenny's mom says, "Maybe 'crazy' isn't so bad after all." Sometimes crazy is just right. (*Amazon.com*)

Galileo's Daughter by Dava Sobel

14 Copies/ 1 Book on Tape

Everyone knows that Galileo Galilei dropped cannonballs off the leaning tower of Pisa, developed the first reliable telescope, and was convicted by the Inquisition for holding a heretical belief--that the earth revolved around the sun. But did you know he had a daughter? In *Galileo's Daughter*, Dava Sobel tells the story of the famous scientist and his illegitimate daughter, Sister Maria Celeste. (*Amazon.com*)

Girl with the Dragon Tattoo by Stieg Larsson 15 Copies/1 Large Print/ 1 Book on CD

Harriet Vanger, scion of one of Sweden's wealthiest families, disappeared over forty years ago. All these years later, her aged uncle continues to seek the truth. He hires Mikael Blomkvist, a crusading journalist recently trapped by a libel conviction, to investigate. He is aided by the pierced and tattooed punk prodigy Lisbeth Salander. Together they tap into a vein of unfathomable iniquity and astonishing corruption. (*Amazon.com*)

Glass Castle by Jeannett Walls

16 Copies/1 Book on CD

Rex & Rose Mary Walls had four children. In the beginning, they lived like nomads, moving among Southwest desert towns, camping in the mountains. Rex was a charismatic, brilliant man who, when sober, captured his children's imagination, teaching them physics, geology, and above all, how to embrace life fearlessly. Rose Mary, who painted & wrote and couldn't stand the responsibility of providing for her family, called herself an "excitement addict." Cooking a meal that would be consumed in fifteen minutes had no appeal when she could make a painting that might last forever. Later, when the money ran out, or the romance of the wandering life faded, the Walls retreated to the dismal West Virginia mining town -- and the family -- Rex Walls had done

everything he could to escape. He drank. He stole the grocery money & disappeared for days. As the dysfunction of the family escalated, Jeannette and her brother and sisters had to fend for themselves, supporting one another as they weathered their parents' betrayals and, finally, found the resources and will to leave home. (*Amazon.com*)

[The God of Small Things by Arundhati Roy](#)

14 Copies

Equal parts powerful family saga, forbidden love story, and piercing political drama, it is the story of an affluent Indian family forever changed by one fateful day in 1969. The seven-year-old twins Estha and Rahel see their world shaken irrevocably by the arrival of their beautiful young cousin, Sophie. It is an event that will lead to an illicit liaison and tragedies accidental and intentional, exposing “big things [that] lurk unsaid” in a country drifting dangerously toward unrest. (*Amazon.com*)

[The Golden Compass by Phillip Pullman](#)

13 Copies/1 Book on CD

In *The Golden Compass*, readers meet for the first time 11-year-old Lyra Belacqua, a precocious orphan growing up within the precincts of Jordan College in Oxford, England. It quickly becomes clear that Lyra's Oxford is not precisely like our own - nor is her world. In Lyra's world, everyone has a personal *dæmon*, a lifelong animal familiar. This is a world in which science, theology & magic are closely intertwined. These ideas are of little concern to Lyra who, at the outset of the story spends most of her time with her friend Roger, a kitchen boy. Together they share a carefree existence scampering across the roofs of the college, racing through the streets of Oxford, or waging war with the other children in town. But that life changes forever when Lyra & her *dæmon* Pantalaimon prevent an assassination attempt on her uncle, the powerful Lord Asriel, and then overhear a secret discussion about a mysterious entity known as Dust. (*Amazon.com*)

[Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck](#)

19 Copies/2 Spanish/5 Plays

The narrative, interrupted by prose-poem interludes, chronicles the struggles of the Joad family's life on a failing Oklahoma farm, their difficult journey to California, and their disillusionment once they arrive there and fall prey to a parasitic economic system. The insularity of the Joads--Ma's obsession with family togetherness, son Tom's self-centeredness, and daughter Rose of Sharon's materialism--ultimately gives way to a sense of universal community. (*Amazon.com*)

[Growing Seasons by Annie Spiegelman](#)

16 Copies

In journal entries written to her young son, Jack, Spiegelman characterizes the balancing act that is daily life for a thoughtful, caring, contemporary woman. Although her toddler won't be able to read the book for years to come, readers will find the refreshingly zany writing to be compelling as Spiegelman muses on becoming a master gardener, and rides the turbulent yet joyful waves of first-time motherhood. Spiegelman presents a covey of kooky sisters getting together to deal with their mother's illness, not to mention the commotion a marriage undergoes after a child arrives. (*Booklist*)

[Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer](#)

12 Copies

As her quirky, loveable characters cite the works of Shakespeare, Austen, and the Brontës, Shaffer subtly weaves those writers' themes into her own narrative. However, it is the tragic stories of life under Nazi occupation that animate the novel and give it its urgency; furthermore, the novel explores the darker side of human nature without becoming maudlin. Guernsey “affirms the power of books to nourish people during hard times” (*Washington Post, Bookmarks Magazine*).

Guns, Germs & Steel by Jared M Diamond

4 copies

In this "artful, informative, and delightful" (William H. McNeill, *New York Review of Books*) book, Jared Diamond convincingly argues that geographical and environmental factors shaped the modern world. Societies that had had a head start in food production advanced beyond the hunter-gatherer stage, and then developed religion -- as well as nasty germs and potent weapons of war --and adventured on sea and land to conquer and decimate preliterate cultures. (*Amazon.com*)

Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood

13 Copies/1 Book on Tape

In the Republic of Gilead, formerly the United States, far-right Schlafly/Falwell-type ideals have been carried to extremes in the mono-theocratic government. The resulting society is a feminist's nightmare: women are strictly controlled, unable to have jobs or money and assigned to various classes: the chaste, childless Wives; the housekeeping Marthas; and the reproductive Handmaids, who turn their offspring over to the "morally fit" Wives. The tale is told by Offred ("of Fred"), a Handmaid who recalls the past and tells how the chilling society came to be. (*Library Journal*).

The Happiness Project by Gretchen Rubin

12 copies

Gretchen Rubin had an epiphany one rainy afternoon in the unlikeliest of places: a city bus. "The days are long, but the years are short," she realized. "Time is passing, and I'm not focusing enough on the things that really matter." In that moment, she decided to dedicate a year to her happiness project. In this lively and compelling account, Rubin chronicles her adventures during the twelve months she spent test-driving the wisdom of the ages, current scientific research, and lessons from popular culture about how to be happier. Among other things, she found that novelty and challenge are powerful sources of happiness; that money can help buy happiness, when spent wisely; that outer order contributes to inner calm; and that the very smallest of changes can make the biggest difference. (*Amazon.com*)

The Help by Kathryn Stockett

13 Copies/1 Book on CD

Aibileen is a black maid in 1962 Jackson, Mississippi, who's always taken orders quietly, but lately she's unable to hold her bitterness back. Her friend Minny has never held her tongue but now must somehow keep secrets about her employer that leave her speechless. White socialite Skeeter just graduated college. She's full of ambition, but without a husband, she's considered a failure. Together, these seemingly different women join together to write a tell-all book about work as a black maid in the South, that could forever alter their destinies and the life of a small town. (*Amazon.com*)

Hole in My Life by Jack Gantos

26 Copies/1 Book on Tape

In the summer of 1971, Jack Gantos was an aspiring writer looking for adventure, cash for college tuition, and a way out of a dead-end job. For ten thousand dollars, he recklessly agreed to help sail a sixty-foot yacht loaded with a ton of hashish from the Virgin Islands to New York City, where he and his partners sold the drug until federal agents caught up with them. For his part in the conspiracy, Gantos was sentenced to serve up to six years in prison. On the surface, the narrative tumbles from one crazed moment to the next as Gantos pieces together the story of his restless final year of high school, his short-lived career as a criminal, and his time in prison. But running just beneath the action is the story of how Gantos -- once he was locked up in a small, yellow-walled cell -- moved from wanting to be a writer to writing, and how dedicating himself more fully to the thing he most wanted to do helped him endure and ultimately overcome the worst experience of his life. (*Amazon.com*)

Home Front by Kristin Hannah

10 copies

Like many couples, Michael & Jolene Zarkades have to face the pressures of everyday life- children, careers, bills, chores-even as their twelve-year marriage is falling apart. Then an unexpected deployment sends Jolene deep into harm's way & leaves defense attorney Michael at home, unaccustomed to being a single parent to their two girls. As a mother, it agonizes Jolene to leave her family, but as a soldier she has always understood the true meaning of duty. In her letters home, she paints a rose-colored version of her life on the front lines, shielding her family from the truth. But war will change Jolene in ways that none of them could have foreseen. (*Amazon.com*)

Hot Sur by Laura Restrepo, translated by Ernesto Mestre-Reed

10 copies

From revered Colombian writer Laura Restrepo comes the smart, thrilling story of a young woman trying to outrun a nightmare. María Paz is a young Latin American woman who, like many others, has come to America chasing a dream. When she is accused of murdering her husband and sentenced to life behind bars, she must struggle to keep hope alive as she works to prove her innocence. But the dangers of prison are not her only obstacles: gaining freedom would mean facing an even greater horror lying in wait outside the prison gates, one that will stop at nothing to get her back. Can María Paz survive this double threat in a land where danger and desperation are always one step behind, and safety and happiness seem just out of reach? (*Amazon.com*)

The Hours by Michael Cunningham

5 copies

In *The Hours*, Michael Cunningham, widely praised as one of the most gifted writers of his generation, draws inventively on the life and work of Virginia Woolf to tell the story of a group of contemporary characters struggling with the conflicting claims of love and inheritance, hope and despair. The narrative of Woolf's last days before her suicide early in World War II counterpoints the fictional stories of Samuel, a famous poet whose life has been shadowed by his talented and troubled mother, and his lifelong friend Clarissa, who strives to forge a balanced and rewarding life in spite of the demands of friends, lovers, and family. (*Amazon.com*)

A House for Mr. Biswas by V.S. Naipaul

15 Copies

In his forty-six short years, Mr. Mohun Biswas has been fighting against destiny to achieve some semblance of independence, only to face a lifetime of calamity. Shuttled from one residence to another after the drowning death of his father, for which he is inadvertently responsible, Mr. Biswas yearns for a place he can call home. But when he marries into the domineering Tulsi family on whom he indignantly becomes dependent, Mr. Biswas embarks on an arduous—and endless—struggle to weaken their hold over him and purchase a house of his own. (*Amazon.com*)

Housekeeping by Marilynne Robinson

20 Copies

Housekeeping is the story of Ruth and her younger sister, Lucille, who grow up haphazardly, first under the care of their competent grandmother, then of two comically bumbling great- aunts, and finally Sylvie, their eccentric and remote aunt. Their lives "spun off the tilting world like thread off a spindle," says Ruthie, the novel's narrator. The interwoven themes of loss and love, longing and loneliness—"the wanting never subsided"—require a cool, almost impersonal touch. Originally published in 1980 and filmed in 1987. Winner of the Pen/Hemingway Award.

I Dreamed I Married Perry Mason by Susan Kandel

8 copies

All that writer Cece Caruso really wants to do is complete her biography of mystery legend Erle Stanley Gardner, find a vintage 1970s Ossie Clark gown to add to her collection, and fix the doorknob on her picturesque West Hollywood bungalow. Then a chance visit with a prison inmate who knew Gardner lands her right in the middle of a 40-year-old murder and another case where the blood is still warm. In fact, Cece finds the body. This brings her

into irresistible contact with her inner personal sleuth and shows how crime and greed can reverberate through several generations of a single family. (*Amazon.com*)

[If He Hollers Let Him Go by Chester Himes](#)

12 copies

If He Hollers Let Him Go is a masterpiece for its bitter and honest portrayal of the life of a normal black man in America, and it speaks to any person who has felt, at some time or other, that he or she has had enough abuse on account of the color of their skin. Himes demonstrated in the person of Bob Jones that one of the most critical rights that black people have been denied is the right to just live their lives unbothered and unmolested and to follow their impulses and desires with no greater reward or punishment than nature's laws of cause and effect. (*Compliments of Barnes & Noble*).

[The Immortal Evening by Stanley Plumly](#)

7 copies

On December 28, 1817, the painter Benjamin Robert Haydon hosted what he referred to in his diaries and autobiography as the “immortal dinner.” He wanted to introduce his young friend John Keats to the great William Wordsworth and to celebrate with his friends his most important historical painting thus far, “Christ’s Entry into Jerusalem,” in which Keats, Wordsworth, and Charles Lamb (also a guest at the party) appeared. After thoughtful and entertaining discussions of poetry and art and their relation to Enlightenment science, the party evolved into a lively, raucous evening. This legendary event would prove to be a highlight in the lives of these immortals. (*Amazon.com*)

[The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot](#) 14 Copies/1 Book on CD

Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor black tobacco farmer whose cells—taken without her knowledge in 1951—became one of the most important tools in medicine, vital for developing the polio vaccine, cloning, gene mapping, and more. Henrietta's cells have been bought and sold by the billions, yet she remains virtually unknown, and her family can't afford health insurance. This phenomenal New York Times bestseller tells a riveting story of the collision between ethics, race, and medicine; of scientific discovery and faith healing; and of a daughter consumed with questions about the mother she never knew. (*Amazon.com*)

[In the Lake of the Woods by Tim O’Brien](#)

14 Copies

When long-hidden secrets about the atrocities he committed in Vietnam come to light, a candidate for the U.S. Senate retreats with his wife to a lakeside cabin in northern Minnesota. Within days of their arrival, his wife mysteriously vanishes into the watery wilderness. (*Amazon.com*)

[In the Time of the Butterflies by Julia Alvarez](#)

9 Copies

It is November 25, 1960, and three beautiful sisters have been found near their wrecked Jeep at the bottom of a 150-foot cliff on the north coast of the Dominican Republic. The official state newspaper reports their deaths as accidental. It does not mention that a fourth sister lives. Nor does it explain that the sisters were among the leading opponents of Gen. Rafael Leonidas Trujillo’s dictatorship. It doesn’t have to. Everybody knows of Las Mariposas- “The Butterflies.” In this extraordinary novel, the voices of all four sisters- Minerva, Patria, María Teresa, and the survivor, Dedé- speak across the decades to tell their own stories, from hair ribbons & secret crushes to gunrunning and prison torture, and to describe the everyday horrors of life under Trujillo’s rule. (*Amazon.com*)

[The Insider’s Journey by Irving Kraus](#)

3 copies

Sociologist Irving Krauss and Political Scientist Wilma Rule show that academics are not cloistered in their ivory

tower. In their life-long journey as students and professors at major universities and regional institutions they give a firsthand account of their universities' inner workings & their struggle for justice in cases of gender discrimination, sexual harassment and wrongful dismissal. Their odyssey begins as sweethearts at U.C. Berkeley and goes on to their ten years in Hawaii, sixteen in Illinois and retirement in a small mountain community in California's Sierra Nevada Mountains. Of greatly different origin—living from New York's South Bronx and Wilma from Basin, Wyoming—they had similar values and interests that made them sensitive to injustice. During their 53 years of married life they also had major roles in Congressional and community politics. As children of the Great Depression of the 1930's Irving tells of occurrences in his working class neighborhood that did not get into the history books and Wilma relates events in her family that darken the lore of early ranching. They had a zest for living and describe unusual experiences in East Berlin and Egypt in their worldwide travel, mostly to professional conferences. (*Author House*)

The Interestings by Meg Wolitzer

11 Copies

The summer that Nixon resigns, six teenagers at a summer camp for the arts become inseparable. Decades later the bond remains powerful, but so much else has changed. In *The Interestings*, Wolitzer follows these characters from the height of youth through middle age, as their talents, fortunes, and degrees of satisfaction diverge. The kind of creativity that is rewarded at age fifteen is not always enough to propel someone through life at age 30; not everyone can sustain, in adulthood, what seemed so special in adolescence. Jules Jacobson, an aspiring comic actress, eventually resigns herself to a more practical occupation and lifestyle. Her friend Jonah, a gifted musician, stops playing the guitar and becomes an engineer. But Ethan and Ash, Jules's now-married best friends, become shockingly successful—true to their initial artistic dreams, with the wealth and access that allow those dreams to keep expanding. (*Amazon.com*)

Into the Forest by Jean Hegland

14 Copies

Set in the near-future, *Into the Forest* is a powerfully imagined novel that focuses on the relationship between two teenage sisters living alone in their Northern California forest home. Over 30 miles from the nearest town, and several miles away from their nearest neighbor, Nell and Eva struggle to survive as society begins to decay and collapse around them. No single event precedes society's fall. There is talk of a war overseas and upheaval in Congress, but it still comes as a shock when the electricity runs out and gas is nowhere to be found. The sisters consume the resources left in the house, waiting for the power to return. Their arrival into adulthood, however, forces them to reexamine their place in the world and their relationship to the land and each other. (*Amazon.com*)

It's Kind Of a Funny Story by Ned Vizzini

14 Copies/1 BOCD

Like many ambitious New York City teenagers, Craig Gilner sees entry into Manhattan's Executive Pre-Professional High School as the ticket to his future. Determined to succeed at life—which means getting into the right high school to get into the right college to get the right job—Craig studies night and day to ace the entrance exam, and does. That's when things start to get crazy. At his new school, Craig realizes that he isn't brilliant compared to the other kids; he's just average, and maybe not even that. He soon sees his once-perfect future crumbling away. The stress becomes unbearable and Craig stops eating and sleeping—until, one night, he nearly kills himself. Craig's suicidal episode gets him checked into a mental hospital, where his new neighbors include a transsexual sex addict, a girl who has scarred her own face with scissors, and the self-elected President Armelio. (*Amazon.com*)

The Jane Austen Book Club by Karen Joy Fowler

11 Copies

In California's central valley, five women and one man join to discuss Jane Austen's novels. Over the six months

they get together, marriages are tested, affairs begin, unsuitable arrangements become suitable, and love happens. With her eye for the frailties of human behavior and her ear for the absurdities of social intercourse, Karen Joy Fowler has never been wittier nor her characters more appealing. The result is a delicious dissection of modern relationships. Dedicated Austenites will delight in unearthing the echoes of Austen that run through the novel, but most readers will simply enjoy the vision and voice that, despite two centuries of separation, unite two great writers of brilliant social comedy. (*Amazon.com*)

The Jew Store by Stella Suberman

6 copies

In 1920, two years before the author was born, her family became the first Jews to live in the small town of Concordia, Tenn. Against the objections of his wife, Aaron Bronson, a Russian Jewish immigrant who had worked in dry goods stores in Savannah, Ga., and Nashville, started his own business by opening Bronson's Low-Priced Store in Concordia, which the locals called "the Jew store." In this richly detailed memoir, in which her father's optimism contrasts sharply with her mother's anxiety about their ability to provide their children with a Jewish education in their new surroundings, Suberman evokes early-20th-century life in the rural South and depicts her family's struggles to find a place in a town where African Americans suffered discrimination and poverty, the Ku Klux Klan was on the march & townspeople viewed Jews with suspicion. *Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc (Publishers Weekly)*

The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan

21 Copies/1 Large Print/1 Sparknotes

The book opens with the story of a Chinese woman who bought a swan because she believed it was born a duck then stretched its neck to become more. The woman wished to do the same. When she arrived in America, however, they took her swan away and she was left with nothing but a feather, and a few broken dreams. Amy Tan's "The Joy Luck Club" is the story of four women and their daughters. In a series of flashbacks we see how each woman came to America, fleeing their Chinese past of oppression and fear to build a better life for their children. Their stories are of war and ancestral pride, marriage and never losing hope. Theirs is the story of the women of China and how they rose above their place in the world, teaching their daughters to do likewise. (*Amazon.com*)

Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson

10 Copies

Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need: the poor, the wrongly condemned, and women and children trapped in the farthest reaches of our criminal justice system. One of his first cases was that of Walter McMillian, a young man who was sentenced to die for a notorious murder he insisted he didn't commit. The case drew Bryan into a tangle of conspiracy, political machination, and legal brinkmanship—and transformed his understanding of mercy and justice forever. *Just Mercy* is at once an unforgettable account of an idealistic, gifted young lawyer's coming of age, a moving window into the lives of those he has defended, and an inspiring argument for compassion in the pursuit of true justice.

Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini.

15 Copies/1 Book on CD

In his debut novel, *The Kite Runner*, Khaled Hosseini accomplishes what very few contemporary novelists are able to do. He manages to provide an educational and eye-opening account of a country's political turmoil—in this case, Afghanistan—while also developing characters whose heartbreaking struggles and emotional triumphs resonate with readers long after the last page has been turned over. Two motherless boys, Amir and Hassan, grow up together in Kabul, Afghanistan. A crime of violence changes their friendship. Later, as an adult, the cowardly Amir tries to learn the fate of Hassan's son. (*Amazon.com*)

Kiti on Ice by Phyl Manning

5 copies

Kiti is nineteen when her mother dies, giving birth to a son, and leaves Kiti responsible for the infant's safety. By placing the baby outdoors to die, the shaman father consigns his only daughter to rescuing her brother and transporting him to the frozen high islands of their mother's people. Life for no one in the family can ever be the same. The terrified young woman churns with resentment over duty thrust upon her, and sets out upon a black and lonely winter trail. Here, she finds fierce animals . . . predatory people . . . friendship . . . and perhaps love as she learns to accept triumph and defeat with equal dignity and growing confidence. (*Amazon.com*)

Krakatoa by Simon Winchester

5 copies

Simon Winchester, New York Times bestselling author of *The Professor and the Madman*, examines the legendary annihilation in 1883 of the volcano-island of Krakatoa, which was followed by an immense tsunami that killed nearly forty thousand people. The effects of the immense waves were felt as far away as France. Barometers in Bogotá and Washington, D.C., went haywire. Bodies were washed up in Zanzibar. The sound of the island's destruction was heard in Australia and India and on islands thousands of miles away. Most significant of all -- in view of today's new political climate -- the eruption helped to trigger in Java a wave of murderous anti-Western militancy among fundamentalist Muslims, one of the first outbreaks of Islamic-inspired killings anywhere. Krakatoa gives us an entirely new perspective on this fascinating and iconic event. (*Amazon.com*)

A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest J. Gaines

5 copies

Jefferson, a young black man, is an unwitting party to a liquor store shoot out in which three men are killed; the only survivor, he is convicted of murder and sentenced to death. Grant Wiggins, who left his hometown for the university, has returned to the plantation school to teach. As he struggles with his decision whether to stay or escape to another state, his aunt and Jefferson's godmother persuade him to visit Jefferson in his cell and impart his learning and his pride to Jefferson before his death. In the end, the two men forge a bond as they both come to understand the simple heroism of resisting- and defying- the expected. (*Amazon.com*)

The Lexus and the Olive Tree- by Thomas L. Friedman

18 Copies

In this vivid portrait of the new business world, Thomas L. Friedman shows how technology, capital, & information are transforming the global marketplace, leveling old geographic and geopolitical boundaries. With bold reporting and acute analysis, Friedman dramatizes the conflict between globalizing forces & local cultures, and he shows why a balance between progress & the preservation of ancient traditions will ensure a better future for all. (*Amazon.com*)

Life of Pi by Yann Martel

27 Copies/2 Book on CD

Growing up beside the wild beasts, Pi gathers an encyclopedic knowledge of the animal world. His curious mind also makes the leap from his native Hinduism to Christianity and Islam, all three of which he practices with joyous abandon. In his 16th year, Pi sets sail with his family & some of their menagerie to start a new life in Canada. Halfway to Midway Island, the ship sinks into the Pacific, leaving Pi stranded on a life raft with a hyena, an orangutan, an injured zebra & a 450-pound Bengal tiger named Richard Parker. After the beast dispatches the others, Pi is left to survive for 227 days with his large feline companion on the 26-foot-long raft, using all his knowledge, wits & faith to keep himself alive. (*Amazon.com*)

Living to Tell the Tale by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

18 Copies

Clearly, Garcia Marquez was born to write, and what a volatile and compelling world he was given to write about. Invaluable in its personal and cultural history, and triumphant in its compassion and artistry, Garcia Marquez's

portrait of himself as a young writer is as revelatory and powerful as his fiction. (*Amazon.com*)

The Looming Tower by Lawrence Wright

14 Copies/1 Book on CD

The Looming Tower may be the most riveting, informative, and "heart-stopping account" yet of the men who shaped 9/11 (*New York Times Book Review*). The focus on individuals gives the book its emotional punch, but it is also a narrative bold in conception and historical sweep. Lawrence Wright conducted more than 500 interviews, from bin Laden's best friend in college to Richard A. Clarke, Saudi royalty, Afghan mujahideen, and reporters for Al Jazeera. The result, while evenhanded in its analysis of the complex motives, ideals, and power plays that led to 9/11, leaves few nefarious details uncovered. An abrupt ending did little to sway critics that Looming Tower is nothing less than "indispensable" reading (*Bookmarks Magazine*)

Lost City Radio by Daniel Alarcon

41 copies

For ten years, Norma has been the on-air voice of consolation and hope for the Indians in the mountains and the poor from the barrios- a people broken by war's violence. As the host of Lost City Radio, she reads the names of those who have disappeared- those whom the furiously expanding city has swallowed. Through her efforts lovers are reunited and the lost are found. But in the aftermath of the decadelong bloody civil conflict, her own life is about to forever change- thanks to the arrival of a young boy from the jungle who provides a cryptic clue to the fate of Norma's vanished husband. (*Amazon.com*)

Love in the Time of Cholera by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

14 Copies/1 Large Print

While delivering a message to her father, Florentino Ariza spots the barely pubescent Fermina Daza and immediately falls in love. What follows is the story of a passion that extends over 50 years, as Fermina is courted solely by letter, decisively rejects her suitor when he first speaks, and then joins the urbane Dr. Juvenal Urbino, much above her station, in a marriage initially loveless but ultimately remarkable in its strength. Florentino remains faithful in his fashion; paralleling the tale of the marriage is that of his numerous liaisons, all ultimately without the depth of love he again declares at Urbino's death. (*Barbara Hoffert, Library Journal*)

Lydia Cassatt Reading the Morning Paper by Harriet Scott Chessman

11 Copies/1 Book on CD

Harriet Scott Chessman takes us into the world of Mary Cassatt's early Impressionist paintings through Mary's sister Lydia, whom the author sees as Cassatt's most inspiring muse. Chessman hauntingly brings to life Paris in 1880, with its thriving art world. The novel's subtle power rises out of a sustained inquiry into art's relation to the ragged world of desire and mortality. Ill with Bright's disease and conscious of her approaching death, Lydia contemplates her world narrowing. With the rising emotional tension between the loving sisters, between one who sees and one who is seen, Lydia asks moving questions about love and art's capacity to remember. (*Amazon.com*)

The Mango Season by Amulya Malladi

3 copies

All the commonplaces of culture clash are on display in this second novel by Malladi (*A Breath of Fresh Air*), about an Indian woman who hides her engagement to an American man from her traditional Brahmin family. "I had escaped arranged marriage," begins Priya Rao, "by coming to the United States to do a master's in Computer Sciences at Texas A&M, by conveniently finding a job in Silicon Valley, and then by inventing several excuses to not go to India." At 27, having run out of excuses, she returns to her home city of Hyderabad and runs headlong into a dizzying array of parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. Tormenting Priya is a secret: Nick, her American fiance. She is afraid to tell anyone about him, fearing she will be disowned, and even agrees to meet an Indian man her parents would like her to marry. (*Publishers Weekly*)

March by Geraldine Brooks

15 Copies/1 Book on CD

From Louisa May Alcott's beloved classic *Little Women*, Geraldine Brooks has animated the character of the absent father, March, and crafted a story "filled with the ache of love and marriage and with the power of war upon the mind and heart of one unforgettable man" (Sue Monk Kidd). With "pitch-perfect writing" (*USA Today*), Brooks follows March as he leaves behind his family to aid the Union cause in the Civil War. His experiences will utterly change his marriage and challenge his most ardently held beliefs. (*Amazon.com*)

Marrying Mom by Olivia Goldsmith

6 copies

Panic erupts among the grown children of Phyllis Geronomous when their difficult mother announces that she is leaving Florida to move north, and they set out in search of an ailing, wealthy old man with no family of his own to take their mother off their hands. (*Amazon.com*)

The Martian by Andy Weir

10 Copies

Six days ago, astronaut Mark Watney became one of the first people to walk on Mars. Now, he's sure he'll be the first person to die there. After a dust storm nearly kills him and forces his crew to evacuate while thinking him dead, Mark finds himself stranded and completely alone with no way to even signal Earth that he's alive—and even if he could get word out, his supplies would be gone long before a rescue could arrive. Chances are, though, he won't have time to starve to death. The damaged machinery, unforgiving environment, or plain-old "human error" are much more likely to kill him first. But Mark isn't ready to give up yet. Drawing on his ingenuity, his engineering skills—and a relentless, dogged refusal to quit—he steadfastly confronts one seemingly insurmountable obstacle after the next. Will his resourcefulness be enough to overcome the impossible odds against him?

The Mermaid Chair by Sue Monk Kidd

8 copies

Every aspect of this audiobook, from the enchanting music that marks the story's dramatic moments to the narrator's intimate delivery, draws listeners into Kidd's mystical world. Set on Egret Island, a fictional barrier island off the coast of South Carolina, the novel focuses on 42-year-old Jessie, a Southern housewife who embarks on a journey of self-discovery after learning that her mother, who's still distraught over her husband's death 33 years earlier, has cut off her own finger. Foss speaks with grace and tenderness, deftly capturing the myriad characters who enter Jessie's life, including her love interest, an introspective attorney turned monk who's about to take his final vows. Perhaps the book's most important character, however, is the land itself, and Foss wisely gives as much weight to Kidd's detailed depictions of the island's lush flora and fauna as to the characters themselves, never rushing through the descriptions and always reading these passages with an appropriate note of reverence. *Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. (Publishers Weekly)*

Middlesex by Jeffrey Eugenides

12 Copies/1 Book on CD

A dazzling triumph from the bestselling author of *The Virgin Suicides*, *Middlesex* is the astonishing tale of a gene that passes down through three generations of a Greek American family and flowers in the body of Calliope Stephanides. *Middlesex* is a story about what it means to occupy the complex and unnamed middle ground between male and female, Greek and American, past and present. For Cal, caught between these identities, the journey to adulthood is particularly fraught. (<http://www.readinggroupguides.com>)

The Milagro Beanfield War by John Nichols

10 Copies

Joe Mondragon, a feisty hustler with a talent for trouble, slammed his battered pickup to a stop, tugged on his gumboots, and marched into the arid patch of ground. Carefully (and also illegally), he tapped into the main

irrigation channel. And so began – though few knew it at the time - the Milagro beanfield war. Gradually, the small farmers and sheepmen begin to rally to Joe’s beanfield as the symbol of their lost rights and their lost lands. And downstate in the capital, the Anglo water barons & power brokers huddle in urgent conference, intent on destroying that symbol before it destroys their multimillion-dollar land-development schemes. (*Amazon.com*)

Motoring with Mohammed by Eric Hansen

9 copies

In 1978 Eric Hansen found himself shipwrecked on a desert island in the Red Sea. When goat smugglers offered him safe passage to Yemen, he buried seven years' worth of travel journals deep in the sand and took his place alongside the animals on a leaky boat bound for a country that he'd never planned to visit. As he tells of the turbulent seas that stranded him on the island and of his efforts to retrieve his buried journals when he returned to Yemen ten years later, Hansen enthralles us with a portrait- uncannily sympathetic and wildly offbeat- of this forgotten corner of the Middle East. With a host of extraordinary characters from his guide, Mohammed, ever on the lookout for one more sheep to squeeze into the back seat of his car, to madcap expatriates and Eritrean gun runners- and with landscapes that include cities of dreamlike architectural splendor, endless sand dunes, and terrifying mountain passes, Hansen reveals the indelible allure of a land steeped in custom, conflicts old and new, and uncommon beauty. (*Amazon.com*)

Mountains Beyond Mountains by Tracy Kidder

20 Copies

In medical school, Paul Farmer found his life’s calling: to cure infectious diseases and to bring the lifesaving tools of modern medicine to those who need them the most. Tracy Kidder’s magnificent account shows how one person can make a difference in solving global health problems through a clear-eyed understanding of the interaction of politics, wealth, social systems, and disease. *From book cover*

Moviegoer by Walker Percy

10 Copies/1 Book on CD

This elegantly written account of a young man's search for signs of purpose in the universe is one of the great existential texts of the postwar era & is really funny besides. Binx Bolling, inveterate cinemaphile, contemplative rake and man of the periphery, tries hedonism & tries doing the right thing, but ultimately finds redemption (or at least the prospect of it) by taking a leap of faith & quite literally embracing what only seems irrational. (*Amazon.com*)

My California edited by Donna Wares

19 Copies

Fly-fish the pristine waters of the Owens River. Step up to the microphone in a California honky- tonk. Surf the biggest waves California has ever seen. Mingle with ducks in an urban oasis. Roller skate through L.A.'s Union Station. See California through the eyes of 27 of the state's finest writers in this delicious travel and adventure anthology. All of the contributors to MY CALIFORNIA donated their work so proceeds of this book can benefit the beleaguered California Arts Council. *From Publishers Weekly*

My Family and Other Animals by Gerald Durrell

3 copies

As a self-described "champion of small uglies," English writer Gerald Durrell (1925-1995) devoted his life to writing and the preservation of wildlife, from the Mauritius pink pigeon to the Rodrigues fruit bat. My Family and Other Animals was intended to embrace the natural history of the Greek island of Corfu, but ended up as a delightful account of his family's experiences that were, according to him, "rather like living in one of the more flamboyant and slapstick comic operas." As a 10-year-old boy, Gerry left England for Corfu with "all those items that I thought necessary to relieve the tedium of a long journey: four books on natural history, a butterfly net, a dog, and a jam-jar full of caterpillars all in imminent danger of turning into chrysalids." (*Amazon.com*)

My Year of Meats by Ruth L. Ozeki

15 Copies

As a writer, Ozeki draws upon her knowledge in documentary filmmaking cleverly to bring the worlds of two women together by utilizing the U.S. meat industry as a central link. Alternating between the voices of Jane (in the United States) and Akiko Ueno, the wife of Jane's boss (in Japan), Ozeki draws parallels in the lives of these two women through beef, love, television, and their desire to have children. Ozeki skillfully tackles hard-pressing issues such as the use and effects of hormones in the beef industry and topics such as cultural differences, gender roles, and sexual exploitation. Her work is unique in presentation yet moving and entertaining. (*Library Journal*)

Mystic River– by Dennis Lehane

13 Copies/1 Book on CD

When Dave, Sean, and Jimmy were eleven, two men posing as policemen lured Dave into a car. Although he escaped, the terrifying incident causes the three friends to grow apart. Finally, their paths cross again twenty-five years later when Sean Devine, a homicide detective, is assigned to investigate the death of Jimmy Marcus's daughter. Dave Boyle is a suspect. (*Courtesy Massachusetts Center for the Book*)

The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri

12 Copies

Ashima and Ashoke Ganguli are recent immigrants to Boston from India in 1968 when they give birth to their first child, a son. Their son ends up with the pet name of Gogol, when his "good name" never arrives from India. Gogol despises his name and grows up as American as he can while his parents cling to their Bengali past while living what appears to be a typical American suburban lifestyle. (*Amazon.com*)

The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency by Alexander McCall Smith

7 copies

This first novel in The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency series tells the story of the delightfully cunning & enormously engaging Precious Ramotswe, who is drawn to her profession to "help people with problems in their lives." Immediately upon setting up shop in a small storefront in Gaborone, she is hired to track down a missing husband, uncover a con man, and follow a wayward daughter. But the case that tugs at her heart, and lands her in danger, is a missing eleven-year-old boy, who may have been snatched by witchdoctors. (*Amazon.com*)

Nova Swing by M. John Harrison

14 copies

It is some time after Ed Chianese's trip into the Kefahuchi Tract. A major industry of the Halo is now tourism. The Tract has begun to expand and change, but, more problematically, parts of it have also begun to fall to earth, piecemeal, on the Beach planets. We are in a city, perhaps on New Venusport or Motel Splendido: next to the city is the event site, the zone, from out of which pour new, inexplicable artefacts, organisms and escapes of living algorithm - the wrong physics loose in the universe. They can cause plague and change. An entire department of the local police, Site Crime, exists to stop them being imported into the city by adventurers, entradistas, and the men known as 'travel agents', profiteers who can manage - or think they can manage -the bad physics, skewed geographies and psychic onslaughts of the event site. But now a new class of semi-biological artefact is finding its way out of the site, and this may be more than anyone can handle. (*Amazon.com*)

The Ocean at the End of the Lane by Neil Gaiman

7 Copies

A middle-aged man returns to his childhood home to attend a funeral. Although the house he lived in is long gone, he is drawn to the farm at the end of the road, where, when he was seven, he encountered a most remarkable girl, Lettie Hempstock, and her mother and grandmother. He hasn't thought of Lettie in decades, and yet as he sits by the pond (a pond that she'd claimed was an ocean) behind the ramshackle old farmhouse where she once lived, the unremembered past comes flooding back. (*Amazon.com*)

Omnivore's Dilemma by Michael Pollan

16 Copies/1 Book on CD

Pollan examines what he calls "our national eating disorder" in this remarkably clearheaded book. It's a fascinating journey up and down the food chain, one that might change the way you read the label on a frozen dinner, dig into a steak or decide whether to buy organic eggs. Pollan prepares a dinner with items from Whole Foods, investigating the flaws in the world of "big organic"; cooks a meal with ingredients from a small, utopian Virginia farm; and assembles a feast from things he's foraged and hunted. (*Compliments of Publisher's Weekly*)

One-Hundred Demons by Lynda Barry

15 Copies

In this graphic novel that's part memoir and part creativity primer, Lynda Barry serves up comics that delve into the funk and sweetness of love, family, adolescence, race, and the hood. Name that Demon!!! Freaky boyfriends! Shouting Moms! Innocence betrayed! These are some of the pickled demons you'll meet as Lynda Barry mixes the true and the un-true into something she calls "autobifictionalography." (*Amazon.com*)

Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline

8 copies

Penobscot Indian Molly Ayer is close to "aging out" out of the foster care system. A community service position helping an elderly woman clean out her home is the only thing keeping Molly out of juvie and worse... As she helps Vivian sort through her possessions and memories, Molly learns that she and Vivian aren't as different as they seem to be. A young Irish immigrant orphaned in New York City, Vivian was put on a train to the Midwest with hundreds of other children whose destinies would be determined by luck and chance. (*Amazon.com*)

Palace Walk by Nagui Mahfouz

6 copies

This first volume in the 1988 Nobel Prize winner's Cairo Trilogy describes the disintegrating family life of a tyrannical, prosperous merchant, his timid wife and their rebellious children in post-WW I Egypt. "Mahfouz is a master at building up dramatic scenes and at portraying complex characters in depth," lauded PW. *Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. (Publishers Weekly)*

Peace Like a River by Leif Enger

10 copies/1 BOCD

Young Reuben Land has little doubt that miracles happen all around us, suspecting that his own father is touched by God. When his older brother flees a controversial murder charge, Reuben, along with his older sister and father, set off on a journey that will take them to the Badlands and through a landscape more extraordinary than they could have anticipated. Enger's novel is at once a heroic quest and a haunting meditation on the possibility of magic in the everyday world. (*Amazon.com*)

Persepolis by Mariane Satrapi

14 Copies

Descended from the last Emperor of Iran, Satrapi is nine when fundamentalist rebels overthrow the Shah. While Satrapi's radical parents and their community initially welcome the ouster, they soon learn a new brand of totalitarianism is taking over. Satrapi's art is minimal and stark yet often charming and humorous as it depicts the madness around her. Thanks to the Iran-Iraq war, neighbors' homes are bombed, playmates are killed and parties are forbidden. Satrapi's parents, who once lived in luxury despite their politics, struggle to educate their daughter. Skillfully presenting a child's view of war and her own shifting ideals, she also shows quotidian life in Tehran and her family's pride and love for their country despite the tumultuous times. (*Publisher's Weekly*)

The Pianist by Wladyslaw Szpilman

12 Copies

On September 23, 1939, Wladyslaw Szpilman played Chopin's Nocturne in C-sharp minor live on the radio as shells

exploded outside—so loudly that he couldn't hear his piano. It was the last live music broadcast from Warsaw: That day, a German bomb hit the station, and Polish Radio went off the air. Though he lost his entire family, Szpilman survived in hiding. In the end, his life was saved by a German officer who heard him play the same Chopin Nocturne on a piano found among the rubble. Written immediately after the war and suppressed for decades, *The Pianist* is a stunning testament to human endurance and the redemptive power of fellow feeling. (*Amazon.com*)

Picture Bride by Yoshiko Uchida

20 Copies

Carrying a photograph of the man she is to marry but has yet to meet, young Hana Omiya arrives in San Francisco, California, in 1917, one of several hundred Japanese "picture brides" whose arranged marriages brought them to America in the early 1900s. Her story is intertwined with others: her husband, Taro Takeda, an Oakland shopkeeper; Kiku and her husband Henry, who reject demeaning city work to become farmers; Dr. Kaneda, a respected community leader who is destroyed by the adopted land he loves. All are caught up in the cruel turmoil of World War II, when West Coast Japanese Americans are uprooted from their homes and imprisoned in desert detention camps. Although tragedy strikes each of them, the same strength that brought her to America enable Hana to survive.

Praisesong for the Widow by Paule Marshall

10 Copies

Praisesong for the Widow is a novel full of music and dancing; it describes the sickness that occurs when we disconnect from our heritage and the healing power that comes from reclaiming the music and rhythms of the ancestors. Its hero, Avatar Avey Johnson, was a new character in black literature: an affluent middle-aged black woman, a mother, a grandmother, and a widow. Avey and her late husband worked hard to climb from the slums of Harlem to the comforts of suburban White Plains. But that material comfort brought with it a spiritual disease a hard-to-diagnose but impossible-to-ignore malaise that eventually erupted into violent illness during a Caribbean vacation. In this novel, Paule Marshall traces Avey's journey from sickness to strength, from the soulless suburbs to the African roots of her identity. (*BarnesandNoble.com*)

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

13 Copies/2 Book on CD

One of the most universally loved and admired English novels, *Pride and Prejudice* was penned as a popular entertainment. But the consummate artistry of Jane Austen transformed this effervescent tale of rural romance into a witty, shrewdly observed satire of English country life that is now regarded as one of the principal treasures of English language. In a remote Hertfordshire village, far off the good coach roads of George III's England, a country squire of no great means must marry off his five vivacious daughters. At the heart of this all-consuming enterprise are his headstrong second daughter Elizabeth Bennet and her aristocratic suitor Fitzwilliam Darcy- two lovers whose pride must be humbled and prejudices dissolved before the novel can come to its splendid conclusion. (*Amazon.com*)

The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio by Terry Ryan

15 Copies

The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio introduces Evelyn Ryan, an enterprising woman who kept poverty at bay with wit, poetry, and perfect prose during the "contest era" of the 1950s and 1960s. Standing up to the church, her alcoholic husband, and antiquated ideas about women, Evelyn turned every financial challenge into an opportunity for innovation, all the while raising her six sons and four daughters with the belief that miracles are an everyday occurrence. (*Amazon.com*)

The Reader by Bernhard Schlink

14 Copies

When he falls ill on his way home from school, fifteen-year-old Michael Berg is rescued by Hanna, a woman twice his age. In time she becomes his lover—then she inexplicably disappears. When Michael next sees her, he is a young law student, and she is on trial for a hideous crime. As he watches her refuse to defend her innocence, Michael gradually realizes that Hanna may be guarding a secret she considers more shameful than murder. (*Amazon.com*)

Reading Lolita in Tehran by Azar Nafisi

12 Copies

Literature professor Nafisi returned to her native Iran after a long education abroad, remained there for some 18 years, and left in 1997 for the United States, where she now teaches at Johns Hopkins. Woven through her story are the books she has taught along the way, among them works by Nabokov, Fitzgerald, James and Austen. Lolita becomes a brilliant metaphor for life in the Islamic republic. The desperate truth of Lolita's story is... the confiscation of one individual's life by another, Nafisi writes. The parallel to women's lives is clear: we had become the figment of someone else's dreams. (*Publisher's Weekly*)

The Red Tent by Anita Diamant

11 copies

Her name is Dinah. In the Bible, her life is only hinted at in a brief and violent detour within the more familiar chapters of the Book of Genesis that tell of her father, Jacob, and his twelve sons. Told in Dinah's voice, Anita Diamant imagines the traditions and turmoils of ancient womanhood--the world of the red tent. It begins with the story of the mothers--Leah, Rachel, Zilpah, and Bilhah--the four wives of Jacob. They love Dinah and give her gifts that sustain her through childhood, a calling to midwifery, and a new home in a foreign land. Dinah's story reaches out from a remarkable period of early history and creates an intimate connection with the past. (*Amazon.com*)

River of Doubt by Candice Millard

13 Copies/1 Book on CD

After his humiliating election defeat in 1912, Roosevelt set his sights on the most punishing physical challenge he could find, the first descent of an unmapped, rapids-choked tributary of the Amazon. Together with his son Kermit and Brazil's most famous explorer, Cândido Mariano da Silva Rondon, Roosevelt accomplished a feat so great that many at the time refused to believe it. In the process, he changed the map of the western hemisphere forever. (*Amazon.com*)

River Town by Peter Hessler

8 copies

In the heart of China's Sichuan province, amid the terraced hills of the Yangtze River valley, lies the remote town of Fuling. Like many other small cities in this ever-evolving country, Fuling is heading down a new path of change and growth, which came into remarkably sharp focus when Peter Hessler arrived as a Peace Corps volunteer, marking the first time in more than half a century that the city had an American resident. Hessler taught English and American literature at the local college, but it was his students who taught him about the complex processes of understanding that take place when one is immersed in a radically different society. (*Amazon.com*)

Road to Perdition by Max Allen Collins

27 copies

Michael O'Sullivan is a deeply religious family man who works as an Irish mob family's chief enforcer. But after his elder son witnesses one of his father's hits, the godfather orders the death of O'Sullivan's entire family. Barely surviving an encounter that takes his wife and younger son, O'Sullivan and his remaining child embark on a dark and violent mission of retribution against his former boss. Featuring accurate portrayals of Al Capone, Frank Nitti and Eliot Ness, this book offers a poignant look at the relationship between a morally-conflicted father and his adolescent son who both fears and worships him. (*Amazon.com*)

Running with Scissors by Augusten Burroughs 23 Copies/2 Book on CD

Running with Scissors is the true story of a boy whose mother (a poet with delusions of Anne Sexton) gave him away to be raised by her unorthodox psychiatrist who bore a striking resemblance to Santa Claus. So at the age of twelve, Burroughs found himself amidst Victorian squalor living with the doctor's bizarre family, and befriending a pedophile who resided in the backyard shed. The story of an outlaw childhood where rules were unheard of, and the Christmas tree stayed up all year round, where Valium was consumed like candy, and if things got dull an electroshock-therapy machine could provide entertainment. The funny, harrowing and bestselling account of an ordinary boy's survival under the most extraordinary circumstances. (*Amazon.com*)

Seabiscuit by Laura Hillenbrand 20 Copies/1 Book on Tape

Gifted sportswriter Hillenbrand unearths the rarefied world of thoroughbred horse racing in this captivating account of one of the sport's legends. Seabiscuit enjoyed great celebrity during the 1930s and 1940s, drawing record crowds to his races around the country. Not an overtly impressive physical specimen, the horse seemed to transcend his physicality as he won race after race. Hillenbrand, a contributor to *Equus* magazine, profiles the major players in Seabiscuit's fantastic and improbable career. Hillenbrand deftly blends the story with explanations of the sport and its culture, including vivid descriptions of the Tijuana horse-racing scene in all its debauchery. (*Publishers Weekly*)

Secret Life of Bees by Sue Kidd 24 Copies/2 Book on CD

When Lily's fierce-hearted black "stand-in mother," Rosaleen insults three of the town's most vicious racists, Lily decides they should both escape to Tiburon, South Carolina- a town that holds the secret to her mother's past. There they are taken in by an eccentric trio of black beekeeping sisters who introduce Lily to a mesmerizing world of bees, honey, and the Black Madonna who presides over their household. (*Amazon.com*)

The Shack by Wm. Paul Young 9 copies

Mackenzie Allen Phillips's youngest daughter, Missy, has been abducted during a family vacation, and evidence that she may have been brutally murdered is found in an abandoned shack deep in the Oregon wilderness. Four years later, in this midst of his great sadness, Mack receives a suspicious note, apparently from God, inviting him back to that shack for a weekend. (*Amazon.com*)

The Shadow of the Wind by Carlos Ruiz Zafon 11 copies

Barcelona, 1945: A city slowly heals in the aftermath of the Spanish Civil War, and Daniel, an antiquarian book dealer's son who mourns the loss of his mother, finds solace in a mysterious book entitled *The Shadow of the Wind*, by one Julián Carax. But when he sets out to find the author's other works, he makes a shocking discovery: someone has been systematically destroying every copy of every book Carax has written. In fact, Daniel may have the last of Carax's books in existence. Soon Daniel's seemingly innocent quest opens a door into one of Barcelona's darkest secrets--an epic story of murder, madness, and doomed love. (*Amazon.com*)

The Shape of Dread by Marcia Muller 34 Copies

Bobby Foster, car-hop at the chic Cafe Comedie, is going to the gas chamber. He's already confessed to the murder of Tracy Kostakos, the club's rising star. But two years after the crime, Tracy's body is still missing and Bobby's confession is full of holes. All Souls Legal Cooperative's final appeal sends San Francisco's #1 P.I. Sharon McCone behind the footlights into the super-charged arena of anxious club owners and aspiring young hopefuls...into the fractured world of Tracy's privileged family and the mind of a young comedienne who was not the good little girl they thought they knew... (*Amazon.com*)

Ship Fever by Andrea Barrett

6 copies

In "Ship Fever," the title novella, a young Canadian doctor finds himself at the center of one of history's most tragic epidemics. In "The English Pupil," Linnaeus, in old age, watches as the world he organized within his head slowly drifts beyond his reach. And in "The Littoral Zone," two marine biologists wonder whether their life-altering affair finally was worth it. In the tradition of Alice Munro and William Trevor, these exquisitely rendered fictions encompass whole lives in a brief space. (*Boston Globe*).

The Shipping News by Annie Proulx

15 Copies

From all outward appearances, Quoye has gone through his first 36 years on earth as a big schlump of a loser. He's not attractive, he's not brilliant or witty or talented, and he's not the kind of person who typically assumes the central position in a novel. But Proulx creates a simple and compelling tale of Quoye's psychological and spiritual growth. Along the way, we get to look in on the maritime beauty of what is probably a disappearing way of life. (*Amazon.com*)

Shopgirl by Steve Martin

4 copies

Lonely, depressed, Vermont transplant Mirabelle Buttersfield, who sells expensive evening gloves nobody ever buys at Neiman Marcus in Beverly Hills and spends her evenings watching television with her two cats. She attempts to forge a relationship with middle-aged, womanizing, Seattle millionaire Ray Porter while being pursued by socially inept and unambitious slacker Jeremy. (*Goodreads*)

The Silver Linings Playbook by Matthew Quick

14 Copies/1 Book on CD

Pat has a theory: his life is a movie produced by God. And his God-given mission is to become physically fit and emotionally literate, whereupon God will ensure him a happy ending- the return of his estranged wife, Nikki. (It might not come as a surprise to learn that Pat has spent several years in a mental health facility.) The problem is, Pat's now home, and everything feels off. No one will talk to him about Nikki; his beloved Philadelphia Eagles keep losing; he's being pursued by the deeply odd Tiffany; his new therapist seems to recommend adultery as a form of therapy. Plus, he's being haunted by Kenny G! (*Amazon.com*)

Snow Flower and the Secret Fan by Lisa See

14 copies/ 1 BOCD

In nineteenth-century China, in a remote Hunan county, a girl named Lily, at the tender age of seven, is paired with a laotong, an "old same," in an emotional match that will last a lifetime. The laotong, Snow Flower, introduces herself by sending Lily a silk fan on which she's written a poem in nu shu, a unique language that Chinese women created in order to communicate in secret, away from the influence of men. As the years pass, Lily and Snow Flower send messages on the fan and compose stories on handkerchiefs, reaching out of isolation to share their hopes, dreams, and accomplishments. Together they endure the agony of footbinding and reflect upon their arranged marriages, their loneliness, and the joys and tragedies of motherhood. The two find solace in their friendship, developing a bond that keeps their spirits alive. (*Amazon.com*)

The Soloist by Steve Lopez

29 Copies/3 Book on CD

The true story of journalist Steve Lopez's discovery of Nathaniel Ayers, a former classical bass student at Julliard, playing his heart out on a two-string violin on Los Angeles' Skid Row. Deeply affected by the beauty of Ayers music, Lopez took it upon himself to change the prodigy's life-only to find that their relationship would have a profound change on his own life. (*Amazon.com*)

Speckled Monster by Jennifer Carrell

13 Copies

The Speckled Monster tells the dramatic story of two parents who dared to fight back against smallpox. After barely surviving the agony of smallpox themselves, they flouted eighteenth-century medicine by borrowing folk knowledge from African slaves and Eastern women in frantic bids to protect their children. From their heroic struggles stems the modern science of immunology as well as the vaccinations that remain our only hope should the disease ever be unleashed again. Jennifer Lee Carrell transports readers back to the early eighteenth century to tell the tales of Lady Mary Wortley Montagu and Dr. Zabdiel Boylston, two iconoclastic figures who helped save London and Boston from the deadliest disease mankind has known. (*Amazon.com*)

The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down by Ann Fadiman

15 Copies

Following the case of Lia (a Hmong child with a progressive and unpredictable form of epilepsy), Fadiman maps out the controversies raised by the collision between Western medicine and holistic healing traditions of Hmong immigrants. Unable to enter the Laotian forest to find herbs for Lia that will "fix her spirit," her family becomes resigned to the Merced County emergency system, which has little understanding of Hmong animist traditions. (*Amazon.com*)

Still Alice by Lisa Genova

8 copies

Alice Howland is proud of the life she worked so hard to build. At fifty years old, she's a cognitive psychology professor at Harvard and a world-renowned expert in linguistics with a successful husband and three grown children. When she becomes increasingly disoriented and forgetful, a tragic diagnosis changes her life—and her relationship with her family and the world—forever. (*Amazon.com*)

The Story of Edgar Sawtelle – David Wroblewski

4 copies

Born mute, speaking only in sign, Edgar Sawtelle leads an idyllic life with his parents on their farm in remote northern Wisconsin. For generations, the Sawtelles have raised and trained a fictional breed of dog whose remarkable gift for companionship is epitomized by Almondine, Edgar's lifelong friend and ally. Edgar seems poised to carry on his family's traditions, but when catastrophe strikes, he finds his once-peaceful home engulfed in turmoil. Forced to flee into the vast wilderness lying beyond the Sawtelle farm, Edgar comes of age in the wild, fighting for his survival and that of the three yearling dogs who accompany him, until the day he is forced to choose between leaving forever or returning home to confront the mysteries he has left unsolved. (*Amazon.com*)

The Street by Ann Petry

10 Copies

THE STREET tells the poignant, often heartbreaking story of Lutie Johnson, a young black woman, and her spirited struggle to raise her son amid the violence, poverty, and racial dissonance of Harlem in the late 1940s. Originally published in 1946 and hailed by critics as a masterwork, The Street was Ann Petry's first novel, a beloved bestseller with more than a million copies in print. Its haunting tale still resonates today. (*Amazon.com*)

Suspicious Mind by Joel Gold and Ian Gold

14 Copies/1 BOCD

The current view of delusions—the strange beliefs held by people with schizophrenia and other psychiatric illnesses—is that they are the result of biology gone awry, of neurons in the brain misfiring. In Suspicious Minds, Dr. Joel Gold and his brother Ian Gold argue that delusions are the result of the interaction between the brain and the social world. They present “a dual broadside: against a psychiatric profession that has become infatuated with neuroscience as part of its longstanding attempt to establish itself as ‘real medicine,’ and against a culture that has become too networked for its own good” (*The New York Times*). The book “amounts to nothing less than a frontal—or perhaps pre-frontal—challenge to the dominant view of modern psychiatry, which looks to

neuroscience to explain disorders of the mind” (*The Washington Post*).

Sweet and Low by Rich Cohen

13 Copies

Disinherited from the family fortune built by his maternal grandfather, Ben Eisenstadt, who invented the artificial sweetener Sweet’N Low, Cohen mines a wealth of family history in this funny, angry, digressive memoir. This story of the family-owned, Brooklyn-based company is, at its heart, a tale of immigrant strife and Cohen’s fractious Jewish clan, including his grandmother Betty, and his hypochondriac, housebound Aunt Gladys, who connived to eliminate her sister from Betty’s will. The history of artificial sweeteners, the post-WWII weight-watching craze, etc.—the real grace of his writing lies in the merciless, comic characterizations of his relatives. (*Publisher’s Weekly*)

Sweet Hereafter by Russell Banks

19 Copies

In *The Sweet Hereafter*, Russell Banks tells a story that begins with a school bus accident. Using four different narrators, Banks creates a small-town morality play that addresses one of life’s most agonizing questions: when the worst thing happens, who do you blame? (*Amazon.com*)

Sweetest Dreams by Doris Lessing

6 Copies

In lieu of writing volume three of her autobiography, the grand dame of English letters delves into the 1960s and beyond. Frances Lennox and her two adolescent sons, and their motley friends have taken over the bottom floors of a rambling house in Hampstead, London. Lessing clearly relishes the recalcitrant ’60s, yet she follows her characters through the women’s movement of the ’70s and a lengthy final digression in ’90s Africa. While the last section lacks the intimate presence of long-suffering Frances, the novel is weightily molded by Lessing’s rich life experience and comes to a momentous conclusion. (*Compliments of Publishers Weekly*)

Tahoe Blue Fire by Todd Borg

11 Copies

When Tahoe Detective Owen McKenna gets a call from a woman who’s afraid for her life, it sounds like she is excessively paranoid. McKenna investigates and discovers that two other people have already died. He believes the killer is after something worth millions, a precious artifact that dates back to Renaissance Italy. When McKenna finds a connection between the victims and a famous retired pro football tackle named Adam Simms, he worries that Simms will be the next victim. Simms seems gentle as a teddy bear. But decades of football gave Simms Traumatic Brain Injury, causing loss of memory and worse. When Simms can’t remember details of his relationship to the other victims, McKenna begins to wonder if it’s because Simms is suffering dementia or if he’s a diabolical fake. As McKenna pursues the case, he will need every bit of strength and skill, for the murderer is determined to kill McKenna in the most vicious way imaginable... (*Amazon*)

Tahoe Trap by Todd Borg

12 copies

TAHOE TRAP is about a 10-year-old illegal, Mexican, immigrant boy named Paco Ipar. When Paco’s foster mother is murdered, he is left homeless, and, because he doesn’t speak Spanish, without even a country he can call home. Tahoe Detective Owen McKenna discovers that two contract killers out of Las Vegas are after Paco. McKenna knows that if he does nothing, the men will keep pursuing the boy. So McKenna plans to set a trap for them using Paco as bait. McKenna’s plan carries a huge risk. If it goes wrong, he will be handing the boy to the killers... (*Amazon.com*)

The Talented Mr. Ripley- by Patricia Highsmith

17 Copies

One of the great crime novels of the 20th century, Patricia Highsmith’s *The Talented Mr. Ripley* is a blend of the narrative subtlety of Henry James and the self-reflexive irony of Vladimir Nabokov. Like the best modernist fiction,

Ripley works on two levels. First, it is the story of a young man, Tom Ripley, whose nihilistic tendencies lead him on a deadly passage across Europe. On another level, the novel is a commentary on fictionmaking and techniques of narrative persuasion. Tom Ripley seduces readers into empathizing with him even as his actions defy all moral standards. (*Amazon.com*)

Tender at the Bone by Ruth Reichl

17 Copies

At an early age, Ruth Reichl discovered that "food could be a way of making sense of the world. . . If you watched people as they ate, you could find out who they were." Her deliciously crafted memoir, *Tender at the Bone*, is the story of a life determined, enhanced, and defined in equal measure by a passion for food, unforgettable people, and the love of tales well told. Beginning with Reichl's mother, the notorious food-poisoner known as the Queen of Mold, Reichl introduces us to the fascinating characters that shaped her world and her tastes, from the gourmand Monsieur du Croix, who served Reichl her first soufflé, to those at her politically correct table in Berkeley who championed the organic food revolution in the 1970s. Spiced with Reichl's infectious humor and sprinkled with her favorite recipes, *Tender at the Bone* is a witty and compelling chronicle of a culinary sensualist's coming-of-age. (*Random House*)

Those Who Save Us by Jenna Blum

11 Copies

For fifty years, Anna Schlemmer has refused to talk about her life in Germany during World War II. Her daughter, Trudy, was only three when she and her mother were liberated by an American soldier and went to live with him in Minnesota. Trudy's sole evidence of the past is an old photograph: a family portrait showing Anna, Trudy, and a Nazi officer, the Obersturmführer of Buchenwald. Driven by the guilt of her heritage, Trudy, now a professor of German history, begins investigating the past and finally unearths the dramatic and heartbreaking truth of her mother's life. (*Amazon.com*)

A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini

8 copies

Born a generation apart and with very different ideas about love and family, Mariam and Laila are two women brought jarringly together by war, by loss and by fate. As they endure the ever escalating dangers around them in their home as well as in the streets of Kabul—they come to form a bond that makes them both sisters and mother-daughter to each other, and that will ultimately alter the course not just of their own lives but of the next generation. With heart-wrenching power and suspense, Hosseini shows how a woman's love for her family can move her to shocking and heroic acts of self-sacrifice, and that in the end it is love, or even the memory of love, that is often the key to survival. (*Amazon.com*)

Thread of Grace by Mary Doria Russell

14 Copies

It is September 8, 1943, and fourteen-year-old Claudette Blum is learning Italian with a suitcase in her hand. She and her father are among the thousands of Jewish refugees scrambling over the Alps toward Italy, where they hope to be safe at last, now that the Italians have broken with Germany and made a separate peace with the Allies. The Blums will soon discover that Italy is anything but peaceful, as it becomes overnight an open battleground among the Nazis, the Allies, resistance fighters, Jews in hiding, and ordinary Italian civilians trying to survive. (*Amazon.com*)

Three Cups of Tea

23 Copies /3 Book on CD/10 Large Print

Some failures lead to phenomenal successes, and this American nurse's unsuccessful attempt to climb K2, the world's second tallest mountain, is one of them. Dangerously ill when he finished the climb in 1993, Mortenson was sheltered for seven weeks by the small Pakistani village of Korphe; in return, he promised to build the impoverished town's first school, a project that grew into the Central Asia Institute, which since constructed more

than 50 schools across rural Pakistan and Afghanistan. Captivating and suspenseful, with engrossing accounts of both hostilities and unlikely friendships, this book will win many readers' hearts. (*Amazon.com*)

Too Close to the Falls by Catherine Gildiner

25 Copies

At the tender age of four, Cathy accompanies Roy, the deliveryman at her father's pharmacy, on his routes. She shares some of their memorable deliveries—sleeping pills to Marilyn Monroe (in town filming Niagara), sedatives to Mad Bear, a violent Tuscarora chief, and fungus cream to Warty, the gentle operator of the town dump. As she reaches her teenage years, Cathy's irrepressible spirit spurs her from dangerous sled rides that take her "too close to the Falls" to tipsy dances with the town priest. (*Amazon.com*)

Tortilla Curtain by T. C. Boyle

10 Copies

Los Angeles liberals Delaney and Kyra Mossbacher lead an ordered sushi-and-recycling existence in a newly gated hilltop community: he a sensitive nature writer, she an obsessive realtor. Mexican illegals Candido and America Rincon desperately cling to their vision of the American Dream as they fight off starvation in a makeshift camp deep in the ravine. And from the moment a freak accident brings Candido and Delaney into intimate contact, these four and their opposing worlds gradually intersect in what becomes a tragicomedy of error and misunderstanding. (*Amazon.com*)

The Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy by Pietra Rivoli

11 Copies

During a 1999 protest of the World Trade Organization, Rivoli, an economics professor at Georgetown, looked on as an activist seized the microphone and demanded, "Who made your T-shirt?" Rivoli determined to find out. She interviewed cotton farmers in Texas, factory workers in China, labor champions in the American South and used-clothing vendors in Tanzania. Problems, Rivoli concludes, arise not with the market, but with the suppression of the market. Subsidized farmers, and manufacturers and importers with tax breaks, she argues, succeed because they avoid the risks and competition of unprotected global trade, which in turn forces poorer countries to lower their prices to below subsistence levels in order to compete. (*Publishers Weekly*)

Tunnel Vision by Sara Paretsky

35 Copies

The return of the incomparable V.I. Warshawski. Sara Paretsky follows up her New York Times bestseller Guardian Angel with a thrilling, crime-solving adventure that stretches from the bank vaults of Chicago to the halls of Congress. V.I. investigates when a board member of an insensitive homeless advocates' group is murdered—in V.I.'s own office (*BarnesandNoble.com*)

Ultimate Spider-Man. Power and Responsibility by Bill Jemas and Brian Bendis

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This excellent series re-boots the character from the beginning, reenacting Spider-Man's origin in the present day. The scenario by Marvel president Jemas and Brian Michael Bendis makes some intelligent revisions to the original, and the artwork is realistic, detailed, colorful, and dynamic. (*Library Journal*)

Ultimate X-Men. The Tomorrow People by Mark Millar

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Everything looks normal, but a secret war is brewing between humans and mutants. Can Charles Xavier and his cadre of X-Men battle the terrorist known only as Magneto? Only time -- and this resplendent graphic novel -- will tell. (*BarnesandNoble.com*)

Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand

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On a May afternoon in 1943, an Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean and disappeared, leaving only a spray of debris and a slick of oil, gasoline, and blood. Then, on the ocean surface, a face appeared. It was that of a young lieutenant, the plane's bombardier, who was struggling to a life raft. So began one of the most extraordinary odysseys of the Second World War. The lieutenant's name was Louis Zamperini. In boyhood, he'd been a cunning and incorrigible delinquent. As a teenager, he had channeled his defiance into running, discovering a prodigious talent that had carried him to the Berlin Olympics. But when war had come, the athlete had become an airman, embarking on a journey that led to his doomed flight, a tiny raft, and a drift into the unknown (*Amazon.com*)

Undaunted Courage by Stephen Ambrose

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Meriwether Lewis, as secretary to Thomas Jefferson and living in the White House for two years, got his education by being apprenticed to a great man. Their friendship is at the center of this account. Jefferson hand-picked Lewis for the great cross-country trek, and Lewis in turn picked William Clark to accompany him. The journals of the expedition, most written by Clark, are one of the treasures of American history. Without adding a great deal to existing accounts, Ambrose uses his skill with detail and atmosphere to dust off an icon and put him back on the trail west. (*Publisher's Weekly*)

Undertow by Elizabeth Bear

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André Deschênes is a hired assassin, but he wants to be so much more. If only he can find a teacher who will forgive his murderous past—and train him to manipulate odds and control probability. It's called the art of conjuring, and it's André's only route to freedom. For the world he lives on is run by the ruthless Charter Trade Company, and his floating city, Novo Haven, is little more than a company town where humans and aliens alike either work for one tyrannical family—or are destroyed by it. But beneath Novo Haven's murky waters, within its tangled bayous, reedy banks, and back alleys, revolution is stirring. And one more death may be all it takes to shift the balance. . . . (*Amazon.com*)

Unquenchable by Robert Glennon

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In the middle of the Mojave Desert, Las Vegas casinos use billions of gallons of water for fountains, pirate lagoons, wave machines, and indoor canals. Meanwhile, the town of Orme, Tennessee, must truck in water from Alabama because it has literally run out. Robert Glennon captures the irony—and tragedy—of America's water crisis in a book that is both frightening and wickedly comical. From manufactured snow for tourists in Atlanta to trillions of gallons of water flushed down the toilet each year, Unquenchable reveals the heady extravagances and everyday inefficiencies that are sucking the nation dry. (*Amazon.com*)

An Unquiet Mind by Kay Redfield Jamison

14 copies

Dr. Jamison is one of the foremost authorities on manic-depressive (bipolar) illness; she has also experienced it firsthand. For even while she was pursuing her career in academic medicine, Jamison found herself succumbing to the same exhilarating highs and catastrophic depressions that afflicted many of her patients, as her disorder launched her into ruinous spending sprees, episodes of violence, and an attempted suicide. (*Amazon.com*)

Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen

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As a young man, Jacob Jankowski was tossed by fate onto a rickety train that was home to the Benzini Brothers Most Spectacular Show on Earth. A veterinary student just shy of a degree, he was put in charge of caring for the

circus menagerie. It was there that he met Marlana, the beautiful equestrian star married to August, the charismatic but twisted animal trainer. And he met Rosie, an untrainable elephant who was the great gray hope for this third-rate traveling show. The bond that grew among this unlikely trio was one of love and trust, and, ultimately, it was their only hope for survival. (*Amazon.com*)

What It Is Like To Go To War by Karl Marlantes

47 Copies

In *What It Is Like to Go to War*, Marlantes takes a deeply personal and candid look at the experience and ordeal of combat, critically examining how we might better prepare our young soldiers for war. War is as old as humankind, but in the past, warriors were prepared for battle by ritual, religion, and literature—which also helped bring them home. In a compelling narrative, Marlantes weaves riveting accounts of his combat experiences with thoughtful analysis, self-examination, and his readings—from Homer to the Mahabharata to Jung. He makes it clear just how poorly prepared our nineteen-year-old warriors—mainly men but increasingly women—are for the psychological and spiritual aspects of their journey. (*Amazon.com*)

What We Keep by Elizabeth Berg

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Ginny Young is on a plane, en route to see her mother, whom she hasn't seen or spoken to for thirty-five years. She thinks back to the summer of 1958, when she and her sister, Sharla, were young girls. At that time, a series of dramatic events—beginning with the arrival of a mysterious and sensual next-door neighbor—divided the family, separating the sisters from their mother. Moving back and forth in time between the girl she once was and the woman she's become, Ginny at last confronts painful choices that occur in almost any woman's life, and learns surprising truths about the people she thought she knew best. (*Amazon.com*)

When the Emperor Was Divine by Julie Otsuka

10 Copies/1 Book on CD

This heartbreaking, bracingly un sentimental debut describes in poetic detail the travails of a Japanese family living in an internment camp during World War II, raising the specter of wartime injustice in bone-chilling fashion. The novel never strays into melodrama – Otsuka describes the family's everyday life in Berkeley and the pitiful objects that define their world in the camp with admirable restraint and modesty. Events are viewed from numerous characters' points of view, and the different perspectives are defined by distinctive, lyrically simple observations. The novel's honesty and matter-of-fact tone in the face of inconceivable injustice are the source of its power.

The Worst Hard Time by Timothy Egan

7 Copies

The dust storms that terrorized America's High Plains in the darkest years of the Depression were like nothing ever seen before or since, and the stories of the people that held on have never been fully told. Pulitzer Prize-winning New York Times journalist and author Timothy Egan follows a half-dozen families and their communities through the rise and fall of the region, going from sod homes to new framed houses to huddling in basements with the windows sealed by damp sheets in a futile effort to keep the dust out. He follows their desperate attempts to carry on through blinding black blizzards, crop failure, and the deaths of loved ones. Drawing on the voices of those who stayed and survived—those who, now in their eighties and nineties, will soon carry their memories to the grave—Egan tells a story of endurance and heroism against the backdrop of the Great Depression. (*Amazon.com*)

The Yellow Birds by Kevin Powers

11 copies/1 large type

"The war tried to kill us in the spring." So begins this powerful account of friendship and loss. In Al Tafari, Iraq, twenty-one-year old Private Bartle and eighteen-year-old Private Murphy cling to life as their platoon launches a bloody battle for the city. Bound together since basic training when Bartle makes a promise to bring Murphy safely

home, the two have been dropped into a war neither is prepared for. In the endless days that follow, the two young soldiers do everything to protect each other from the forces that press in on every side: the insurgents, physical fatigue, and the mental stress that comes from constant danger. As reality begins to blur into a hazy nightmare, Murphy becomes increasingly unmoored from the world around him and Bartle takes actions he could never have imagined. (*Amazon*)

Yesteryear's Child by Phoebe Louise Westwood

3 copies

"Yesteryear's Child" brings to life a time and place in our collective American past. This is much more than one woman's story. Outdoor privies became indoor plumbing; horse-drawn carriages shared the dusty roads with the first automobiles; and the earliest telephone numbers were single digits. In the tradition of such personal memoirs as "Cheaper by the Dozen" and "I Remember Mama" this delightful tale will evoke memories in the old and wonder in the young. (*Compliments of Amazon*)

Zeitoun by Dave Eggers

25 copies

Abdulrahman and Kathy Zeitoun run a house-painting business in New Orleans. In August of 2005, as Hurricane Katrina approaches, Kathy evacuates with their four young children, leaving Zeitoun to watch over the business. In the days following the storm he travels the city by canoe, feeding abandoned animals and helping elderly neighbors. Then, on September 6th, police officers armed with M-16s arrest Zeitoun in his home. Told with eloquence and compassion, Zeitoun is a riveting account of one family's unthinkable struggle with forces beyond wind and water. (*Amazon.com*)

OTHER RESOURCES:

Book Club Cookbook, The – by Judy Gelman and Vicki Levy Krupp

4 Copies

Featuring recipes and discussion ideas for one hundred popular book club selections, The Book Club Cookbook will guide you in selecting and preparing culinary masterpieces that blend perfectly with the literary masterpieces your club is reading. With contributions from many of the authors of these favorite books themselves, as well as profiles of book clubs all across the country that are creatively integrating food into their meetings, this singular cookbook includes such scrumptious pairings as Tandoori Shrimp with Life of Pi by Yann Martel and Spicy Pork with Orange Hoisin Sauce in Wonton Cups with Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress by Dai Sijie."

Book Lust – by Nancy Pearl

3 Copies

"Pearl, a longtime reader, book reviewer and public librarian, presents a hundred or so of her favorites in this novel guide to finding the right book for the right mood. Presented in eclectic categories of people, places and themes (e.g. "Prose by Poets," "Dinosaur Hunting," "In Big Sky Country" and "Academia: The Joke"), each of her suggestions is accompanied by a few of her thoughts on it, a succinct plot summary and often information about the volume's prizes and print status. There's more than just novels, of course: she recommends, for instance, good "Techno-thrillers" ("nonfiction about science and technology") such as The Thread Across the Ocean: The Heroic Story of the Transatlantic Cable and One Good Turn: A Natural History of the Screwdriver and the Screw. Interestingly, Pearl urges readers to abandon books they dislike after 50 pages, though she does point out that frame of mind often determines one's opinion of a book. "When I begin reading a new book, I am embarking on a new, uncharted journey," Pearl declares in her brief introduction; with this guidebook in hand, readers can benefit from her experience as they travel their own ways." *From Publishers Weekly*

More Book Lust – by Nancy Pearl

3 Copies

“In this sequel to the popular *Book Lust* (2003), Pearl, former Seattle librarian and a continuing national book-talk host, dips further into her repertoire of have-read books (both fiction and nonfiction) and offers up another batch she is only too happy to talk about. As in the previous volume, she creatively arranges her titles into unexpected but certainly tantalizing and even provocative categories, this time presenting a whole new set of categories. From "Adapting to Adoption" to "Your Tax Dollars at Work: Good Reading from the Government (Really!)," and including "Nagging Mothers, Crying Children," "Science 101," and "Gender-Bending," Pearl suggests titles relevant to each category and gives a brief annotation for each. A self-confessed "readaholic," Pearl lets us benefit from her addiction. May she never seek recovery.” *Brad Hopper, From Booklist, Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved*