David Baldacci  
**Deliver Us from Evil**

In South America, a rich elderly woman reads a book late into the night and is dead before morning. In Provence, a man drowns in a pool. Meanwhile, journalist Katie James, at work on a story of international importance, is kidnapped. What connects these events?

Linwood Barclay  
**Never Look Away**

Reporter David Harwood's life turns terrifying when his wife and son disappear on a trip to an amusement park.

William Bernhardt  
**Capitol Betrayal**

While working in the White House Special Counsel office, Ben Kincaid must prevent a nuclear crisis when a ballistic missile system falls into the hands of a foreign dictator. Meanwhile, the Vice President begins to question the President's sanity.

Stephen J. Cannell  
**The Pallbearers**

Walter "Pop" Dix, director of the orphanage where Shane Scully grew up, dies of an apparent suicide. Shane and five other former orphaned residents, the pallbearers, don't believe Pop could take his own life and investigate his death.

Harlan Coben  
**Caught**

Wendy Tynes, an investigative reporter who exposes sexual predators on her television show, names social worker Dan Mercer as the man responsible for a missing teenager. She soon begins to find discrepancies in her evidence, but it is too late—Dan is killed by a vigilante seeking justice.

Jennifer Crusie & Bob Mayer  
**Wild Ride**

As she attempts to restore an aging amusement park, Mary Alice Brannigan finds herself up against the five most powerful demons in the world.

Sandra Dallas  
**Whiter Than Snow**

In 1920, on a spring afternoon in a small town in Colorado, an avalanche is set off, covering everything in its path including nine schoolchildren. What has decided the fate of those who survive? Is it chance or divine intervention?

Frank Delaney  
**Venetia Kelly’s Traveling Show**

Amidst Ireland's tumultuous 1932 election, 18-year-old Ben MacCarthy joins a traveling performer's show in the hopes of finding his father, who abandoned their family for a beautiful young actress.

Linda Fairstein  
**Hell Gate**

Why does the victim of a shipwreck carrying human cargo have the same rose tattoo as a woman scandalously involved with a New York congressman? Sex crimes prosecutor Alexandra Cooper puts these two cases together.

Katie Fforde  
**Wedding Season**

Sarah, a wedding planner who doesn’t believe in love, must get through preparing for two weddings on the same day—one for a high-profile celebrity, and the other for her bridezilla sister.

Carol Goodman  
**Arcadia Falls**

Taking a teaching job in an isolated community after her husband’s death, Meg hopes to strengthen her bond with her teenage daughter, but finds local secrets and a mysterious death challenging her sense of reality.

Erin Hart  
**False Mermaid**

Nora is convinced that her brother-in-law was responsible for her sister’s murder. When he prepares to marry again, she returns to Minnesota in the hopes of sparing this new wife the fate her sister met.

Jonathan Kellerman  
**Deception**

Milo Sturgis receives a DVD of a woman who accuses several fellow teachers at an exclusive private school of horrific sexual predation. Later she is found dead.
Lori Lansens
**The Wife's Tale**
When her husband doesn’t come home on the eve of their 25th wedding anniversary, an obese Mary Gooch, who has never learned to be self-sufficient, sets out on a journey of self-discovery.

Lisa Lutz
**The Spellmans Strike Again**
Former wild child, private investigator Izzy Spellman, has finally agreed to take over the family business and must crack her toughest case yet. But can she ever get her love life together as well?

Christopher Moore
**Bite Me**
Vampires Jody, Tommy, Abby and Steve are on the search for Abby’s bloodsucking cat, who is stalking the streets with his feline minions and becoming more dangerous every day. First, however, they must fight three very old vampires who are holding a grudge.

Jo Nesbø
**The Devil’s Star**
Alcoholic detective Harry Hole must catch a serial killer who, obsessed with the number five, cuts a finger off each of his victims and marks them with a red pentagram. Meanwhile, Harry must also expose his crooked partner, Tom Waaler, who may be responsible for a murder.

Tawni O’Dell
**Fragile Beasts**
Teenagers Kyle and Klint have grown up poor in Pennsylvania’s coal country. When their alcoholic father dies unexpectedly, athletic Klint and artistic Kyle are forced to decide between a move to Arizona with their estranged mother, or to stay and be raised by reclusive and mysterious, septuagenarian Candace Jack, who has suffered a tragic past.

Anne Perry
**Sheen on the Silk**
In 13th-century Constantinople on the brink of a Christian crusade, Anastasius disguises herself as a eunuch in order to prove her brother’s innocence of a crime he did not commit.

Jodi Picoult
**House Rules**
Unable to express himself socially but possessing a savant-like knack for investigating crimes, a teenage boy with Asperger’s Syndrome is wrongly accused of killing his tutor when the police mistake his autistic tics for guilty behavior.

Cornelia Read
**Invisible Boy**
The discovery of a 3-year-old’s body prompts outspoken socialite Madeline Dare to examine her own troubled history in the public class and racial warfare of New York City society, during the 1990s.

Lisa Scottoline
**Think Twice**
After her evil twin sister, Alice, steals her identity, Bennie must convince everyone she’s ever cared about that she is the real Bennie, and not the deranged twin—only to realize how truly similar she is to Alice.

Erica Spindler
**Blood Vines**
When Alexandra Owens travels to California to unearth her mysterious past, she finds herself racing to discover the connection between her terrifying visions and a string of ritualistic murders.

Kate White
**Hush**
Lake Warren is in the middle of a custody battle for her children when she makes a big mistake—a one-night stand with a co-worker. When she finds the man dead the next morning, she lies to the police and becomes the prime suspect. Launching an investigation of her own, in order to clear her good name, Lake soon realizes that she is the one whose life is in danger.
Beautiful Creatures

Nothing ever seems to change in Gatlin where generations of families can trace their roots back to the Civil War, and everybody knows everybody’s business. Things get stirred up the day Lena Duchannes, niece of the town recluse, arrives. Gossip and rumors abound, but none of that matters to Ethan Wate, who has a mysterious and unexplained connection with the unusual newcomer. Lena has a dark and dangerous family secret, and Ethan seems to have no choice but to be involved.

Kami Garcia’s Beautiful Creatures, a William C. Morris Award finalist, is full of history, mystery, magic, humor, romance, and suspense. In a refreshing change of pace, the story is told from a male point of view. The characters are intriguing and the small town Southern setting is dark and haunting. The somewhat abrupt ending sets up a sequel.

—Megan Alabaugh

Dial H for Hitchcock

Cece Caruso, biographer of mystery writers, can’t resist solving mysteries herself. After abandoning Detective Gambino at the altar, Cece throws herself into her latest book, a biography of Alfred Hitchcock.

After a screening of “Vertigo,” Cece accidentally comes home with a stranger’s cell phone—and a whole slew of problems. Soon she is under suspicion for murder and faced with a case of identity fraud. Who dares to try to walk in Cece Caruso’s shoes?

Dial H for Hitchcock by Susan Kandel is the fifth installment in a funny, smart, and action-packed mystery series that gets better with each book. Fans of Janet Evanovich will especially enjoy this series, but Cece’s unique occupation and vintage fashion obsession make these mysteries truly original.

—Carol O’Keefe

After All These Years

In Hidden Man by David Ellis, Jason Kolarich leaves behind Sammy, his best friend, and Pete, his younger brother, when he accepts a college football scholarship and then continues on to law school. When Jason and Sammy were teens and in trouble with the law, Sammy took the blame for their misdeeds to shelter Jason and his promising future. Sammy is now in prison awaiting trial for murdering the man who killed his baby sister almost 30 years ago. He requests Jason for his attorney, and Jason cannot refuse because he knows he owes Sammy big time.

Nothing is as it seems in this riveting legal thriller because there is a “hidden man” manipulating the lives of Jason, Sammy, and Pete. It will take all of Jason’s smarts and physical courage to bring the three of them out of this alive. After reading this book, you will thank your lucky stars that this is fiction!

—Rosemary Ward

True Friendship

David Guterson’s latest novel, The Other, is autobiographical in many aspects. The narrator of the novel is Neil Countryman, and he tells the story of his friendship with John William Barry, the son of an affluent family, who throws aside his wealth and comfort to live a righteous life. Neil and John William meet as high school athletes, and their friendship grows even as their paths diverge—Neil to study English and become a teacher; John William to drop out of college and out of the mainstream to take up life as a “hermit of the Hoh” in the back country.

Guterson says that he shares with his character Neil many similarities. Both grew up in Seattle, attended the University of Washington in the early 1970s, taught high-school English, wrote novels and came into fame and money later in life. Using beautiful prose, Guterson explores the themes of friendship, wealth, and social responsibility against a backdrop of a strong sense of place—Seattle in the 1970s through the present and the Hoh River wilderness in Washington State.

—Ann Jackson
Between the Covers features a taste of what you'll find in The Reading Room, our browsing database of over 6,700 titles that have been read and reviewed by our own library staff. Click on The Reading Room on our website or go to http://readingroom.rrpl.org to use this special service.

FICTION

Let the Great World Spin
Colum McCann
As Philippe Petit walks his tightrope across the World Trade Center, the life of the city beneath him plays out. An Irish monk shelters the local prostitutes, the prostitutes, including mother and daughter, try to survive, and mothers cross social class lines to mourn their sons' deaths in Vietnam.

Winner of the National Book Award, this book is a beautifully written novel of city life, connections, tragedy, redemption, and hope.

Half-Broke Horses: A True-Life Novel
Jeannette Walls
This novel is based on the life of the author's grandmother, Lily Casey Smith. Rancher/teacher Lily raises two children, trains horses, plays poker, sells moonshine, and flies airplanes. Lily's daughter, Rosemary, becomes the author's mother.

A heartwarming story of the American West and an astonishing woman.

Heroic Measures
Jill Ciment
The story follows the pursuits of Alex and Ruth, an elderly couple in Manhattan, who are hoping to move out of their five-flight walkup into a highly desirable (albeit highly expensive) “elevator” building in the city. While apartment hunting and having open houses, they must deal with their mixed feelings about their impending move. Mingled with this, their precious dachshund, Dorothy, loses the ability to walk, and they learn that a possible terrorist is loose in the city.

This quirky little book surprisingly contains quite a story. Likable characters and a little suspense keep you interested and rooting for Alex and Ruth until the end. And then, of course, there’s Dorothy!

SUSPENSE/THRILLER

Black Friday
Alex Kava
Maggie O'Dell is sent to Minnesota to investigate after a bomb explodes inside the Mall of America on the busiest shopping day of the year. Could a group of college students, including her half-brother, be to blame, or is something more sinister happening?

Seventh in the Maggie O'Dell FBI profiler series. An interesting and all too plausible possible explanation for the Oklahoma City bombings as well as 9/11 are given as part of the plot.

Impact
Douglas Preston
When two young girls witness what they believe is a meteor streak across the Maine sky, they track it to a small island off the coast. At the same time the National Propulsion Facility finds anomalies in gamma ray data from Mars, and the President’s science advisor is investigating strange, radioactive gemstones that suddenly appeared in a Cambodian mine. How on earth could these events be connected? Ex-CIA agent Wyman Ford finds that the “meteor” made a hole straight through the earth. Now he needs to find the connection before the earth suffers another strike.

A fast-paced scientific thriller with a little Star Trek mixed in. Fans of Michael Crichton will like the exciting premise.

Nine Dragons
Michael Connelly
Harry Bosch is assigned to investigate the murder of a liquor store owner who was paying protection money to a Chinese Triad gang. Harry is not sure he can trust the Chinese-speaking detective he partners with when information regarding the case appears to be leaked. Then he receives a video phone clip from Hong Kong where his 13-year-old daughter Maddie lives showing her being held hostage and telling him to back off the investigation.

Fourteenth in the series. As always, Harry is resourceful, personable, and continues to grow as a character.
**MYSTERY**

**London Boulevard**
Ken Bruen
Mitch serves three years in prison for assault when a burglary goes wrong. Once released, Mitch is offered two very different jobs—a legitimate one as a handyman to an aging, wealthy, and still beautiful actress, or a job as a loan-shark for Mr. Gant, a dangerous mob boss. Prone to violence and drug and alcohol abuse himself, Mitch is torn between the world of crime and the straight and narrow. The wrong choice could lead him or those he loves to a very bloody end.

*With nonstop action, this crime thriller really delivers. Perfect for fans of hard-boiled, fast-paced, and tough-talking novels. If you’ve never read Ken Bruen, what are you waiting for?*

**Ghost A La Mode**
Sue Ann Jaffarian
Emma Whitcastle attends a séance where the clairvoyant indicates that an ancestor needs her help. Ish Reynolds (Granny Apples) makes contact with Emma, her great-great-great granddaughter, to solicit help in clearing her name. She was hanged for murdering her husband around the turn of the 20th century. After some convincing, Emma heads to Julian to untangle the mystery and connects with several ghosts along the way.

*The first entry in this new series is a fun and quick read full of quirky characters—and ghosts!*

**Swan for the Money**
Donna Andrews
Meg is chairman of the 1st annual rose show in Caerphilly, Virginia, and her parents are competing for the Winkle-son Trophy which is given to the darkest rose entered in the competition. Unfortunately their entry is eaten by a deer who is lured to their roses by the smell of doe urine. The show is being held at Raven Hill, estate of fellow rose gardener Philomena Winkleson, and someone is trying to kill her.

*Quirky characters, dog napping, fainting goats, mean swans, sabotage, and murder are all part of the 11th entry in the Meg Langslow mystery series.*

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**MAGIC & MYTH**

**Peter and Max**
Bill Willingham
Peter Piper, a pumpkin-eater, and Max "the Pied" Piper are brothers, who are divided at a young age when Peter is chosen to receive their father’s magical flute. Years later, Peter must hunt down a now-evil and power-hungry Max, and seek revenge against the pain Max has caused to the world and in particular, to avenge the injuries caused to Bo Peep, the love of Peter’s life.

*Funny and smart, this modern-day story is filled with your favorite fairy tale characters who behave quite differently than the Brothers' Grimm led us to believe. Nonstop action will keep you reading this one long into the night.*

**The Girl with Glass Feet**
Ali Shaw
On the icy St. Hauda’s islands, winged miniature livestock fly about the bogs and a mysterious creature is rumored to stalk the woods, turning everything it sees to white. Stranger still is the condition of Ida MacLaird, a young woman who is slowly turning to glass. Photographer Midas Crook, a man who has only ever been desperate to spend his life alone, unwittingly begins to fall in love with Ida. On learning of her ailment, Midas embarks on a desperate quest to save her.

*This unusual love story has an original premise and is set in a memorable and fantastic imaginary world. Beautifully written, this debut novel will have readers eager for Shaw’s next effort.*

**The Magician’s Elephant**
Kate DiCamillo
Ten-year-old orphan Peter Duchenen goes to the town market to buy fish, but he instead spends his coins on a fortune-teller whom Peter asks about his missing sister, Adele. The fortune-teller says that an elephant will lead Peter to Adele. Sure enough, later that night, a traveling magician accidentally conjures up an elephant. The lives of Peter and of the townspeople intertwine and are forever changed by the appearance of the pachyderm, but will Peter ever see his sister again?

*A magical and hope-filled fairy tale of a story with beautiful illustrations. This book is perfect reading (or reading aloud) for children of all ages and/or for reluctant readers.*
Awe Inspiring Memoirs in Six Words

Legend has it that Ernest Hemingway penned a six word novel, possibly on a bet or to settle a bar tab. The novel he wrote: “For sale: baby shoes, never worn.” Since then, many writers have taken the six word novel challenge, including the editors at Smith Magazine, who challenged readers to write their own six word memoir. The results became a New York Times bestselling series. The most recent addition to the series is *I Can't Keep My Own Secrets: Six Word Memoirs* by Teens Famous and Obscure. The teen voices in this collection are full of heartbreaking honesty, inspiring optimism, and humor as they tell about life, love, dreams, hopes and fears. Fans of Frank Warren’s *Post Secrets* project will surely appreciate these memoirs.

—Megan Alabaugh

Humorous and Heartfelt

When Matthew Prior quit his job as a journalist to write a Web site devoted to financial journalism in the form of blank verse (what?) he thought he was on his way to building a satisfying, lucrative career. Soon he finds himself not only jobless, but also crippled with debt, spying on his wife’s online romance, and six days away from losing his home. Yes, *The Financial Lives of the Poets* by Jess Walter dives right into today’s problems.

So how does Matthew cope? He decides to help two local degenerates sell their homegrown high-grade marijuana for a few days, so he can make just enough money to save his family, his marriage, and his home. Although he quickly fails at dealing, he ultimately succeeds at something much more important—life. Feel Matthew’s anxiety as he suffers through his weeklong quest to save his marriage, his sanity, and his dreams and you’ll be rewarded with a cast of truly likable characters, really funny observations, and a very tender ending.

—Chris Nowak

A Charmingly Spooky Tale

It’s 1858 and Miss Theodora Lestrange has been invited to visit her school friend Cosmina Dragulescu’s family home in Transylvania. Theodora plans to become an authoress and hopes her travels will provide new experiences for her writing. Arriving at Dragulescu Castle, Theodora is met with rumors of walking dead, unnaturally large wolves in the forest, and an unusual ancestral family with a long history of troubles. But Count Andrei is charming and Theodora is happy to be reunited with her friend, perhaps the rumors are false.

*The Dead Travel Fast* by Deanna Raybourn is a new novel but it has all the wonderful gothic elements that make readers love Victoria Holt and Mary Stewart. There’s an element of danger to Theodora’s explorations but she’s a true heroine and never backs down. This is a book you’ll want to read again and again.

—Stacey Hayman

Growing Up is Hard to Do

The odds are against Warren Spooner from the beginning: his twin brother dies at birth, his father dies shortly thereafter, and his mother never recovers. Luckily she soon marries a former naval officer named Calmer Ottossen, a man whose steadfastness counters Spooner’s struggles to find his place in the world. Flanked by intellectually gifted siblings, Spooner, by comparison, succeeds at little and is drawn to trouble. As he makes his way through a life of heartbreak, loneliness, violence and eventually acceptance, Calmer is always by Spooner’s side.

Partly autobiographical, Pete Dexter’s novel *Spooner* is filled with detailed characters and episodes that are stories within a story. Dexter weaves together the lives of this father and son, creating a busting at the seams tale that is hilarious and touching and that allows Dexter’s storytelling to shine.

—Dori Olivos
Family Ties

After Emily’s mother Dulcie dies in a car accident, Emily is sent to live in Mullaby, NC with the grandfather she didn’t even know she had. An even bigger shock for Emily was learning her civic-minded, non-judgmental mother was a mean girl in high school. In fact Dulcie is considered responsible for the mysterious Coffey family tragedy, but not everyone is holding the past against Emily. Julia, a classmate of Dulcie’s, welcomes her young neighbor with an exquisite cake and a shoulder to lean on. Maybe Julia can help Emily put all the pieces together to make a true picture of her mom.

The Girl Who Chased the Moon by Sarah Addison Allen is a touching story of how the truth and honest forgiveness can transform lives. But of equal importance to this reader are the wonderfully odd characters who inhabit this small town full of magical extras like wallpaper that changes with your moods or the smell of baked goods bringing wandering souls home.

—Stacey Hayman

A New Regency Romance

Mary Balogh has written over seventy novels and almost thirty novellas. All of her works have been classic love stories with many set in the early 19th century Regency time period. Balogh’s newest, A Matter of Class, follows the typical Regency romance formula. Lady Annabelle Ashton and Mr. Reginald Mason have been forced into an arranged marriage by their feuding parents. Will this mismatched couple ever find love? Readers will be dazzled by the surprise twist Balogh adds to make this story anything but typical. A Matter of Class should not be missed!

—Donna Zmrazek

The Mystery of Memory

When a Los Angeles antiques dealer finds an old photo in a box of magazines, he begins to tell a complex story of history, time travel, and romance. It begins with Peter Force, a young man who arrives in New York City in 1900 and gets a job laboring in horrible conditions building the subway. His life changes when he crosses paths with Cheri-Anne Toledo, a woman claiming to have traveled through time from the Kingdom of Ohio, an autonomous French kingdom where modern day Toledo stands. Peter is not sure whether to believe her, but soon is swept away by her mystery and beauty. Inventors Thomas Edison and Nicolas Tesla and wealthy financier J.P. Morgan also have roles to play in this intriguing novel.

In The Kingdom of Ohio, by Matthew Flaming, turn of the century New York is beautifully rendered and issues of history, philosophy, and science are considered. Flaming’s prose takes us on a journey of the imagination, where truth, reality, and memory are unreliable but love is everlasting.

—Dori Olivos

The Broken Teaglass

Billy begins work at Samuelson, an esteemed dictionary company where he is trained as a lexicographer. While researching word citations, he discovers references to a book that not only doesn’t exist, but whose setting is strangely similar to Samuelson. Even stranger, the bogus book includes a murder scene. Billy and his lovely co-worker, Mona, research the company’s files, in order to discover if a murderer might sit in the cubicle next to them. Added bonuses for Billy are the evenings he and Mona spend alone, pouring over the cryptic messages.

The Broken Teaglass by Emily Arsenault is a fabulous debut novel that is a perfect mix of mystery, romance, and word fun—the very definition of a good read.

—Carol O’Keefe

...20 Years and Counting!
Under the Dome

At over 1000 pages (1008 to be exact), Under the Dome by Stephen King will leave the reader loathing the protagonist in the story. You won’t believe what Stephen King lets him get away with.

Set in Chester’s Mill, a small rural town in Maine, the book opens with a massive semi-permeable "glass-like" invisible barrier that instantly comes down upon the town. James "Big Jim" Renney is the town's second selectman and antagonist that all readers should love to hate. He is a small town politician with dreams of becoming the prestigious leader of the now isolated town.

Luckily, an ex-army general is also trapped inside the dome. Dale Barbara is promoted to Colonel by the President, appointed to lead the town until the disaster is over, and immediately put into Big Jim's cross-hairs. What follows is a wild ride for Mr. Barbara as he finds himself accused of murder, in jail and set to be executed by firing squad.

—Jamie L. Mason

Miss Dido Kent, I Presume?

Miss Dido Kent has been invited to the Montague country estate to meet Richard, her niece Catherine's fiancé. Richard disappears the night before Dido arrives, but not before telling Catherine that he isn’t the man he thought he was and their engagement should not be announced. Catherine is devastated and asks her favorite Aunt to figure out where Richard might have gone and why, but before Dido can begin to search for information an unknown woman is found dead in the shrubbery. Could the worst be true? Could these happenings be connected?

Bellfield Hall, or the Observations of Miss Dido Kent by Anna Dean takes readers on a wonderful walk through Regency England in the companionship of a new, favorite character Miss Dido Kent.

—Stacey Hayman

Lost Without Twilight?

Finished the Twilight series & looking for another exciting paranormal romance to fill the void?
The leading men in these titles will surely have you swooning:

Evermore, Blue Moon & Shadowland
by Alyson Noel

The Splendor Falls
by Rosemary Clement-Moore

The Hollow by Jessica Verday

Shiver by Maggie Stiefvater

Devil's Kiss by Sarwat Chada

Fallen by Lauren Kate

Hush, Hush by Becca Fitzpatrick

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