

Coming Soon

Roberto Bolano

The Third Reich

Returning with his girlfriend to the small Costa Brava vacation town of his childhood, German war-game champion Udo Berger loses himself in his favorite strategy game when a fellow vacationer disappears.

Erin Brockovich

Hot Water

A nuclear-plant owner enlists the help of AJ Palladino for protection from protesters and terrorists, but when AJ's son goes missing, she finds herself in the midst of a potential nuclear catastrophe.

Stephen Cannell

Vigilante

LAPD detective Shane Scully and his partner Sumner Hitchens investigate a possible killer in their precinct when a trouble-making activist is found dead inside Sumner's home.

Jennifer Chiaverini

The Wedding Quilt

As the wedding of Sarah's daughter approaches, Sarah reflects on what she's learned—that a union celebrates not only the couple's passage into wedlock, but also the contributions of those who've made the bride and groom the people they are.

William Cohen

Blink of an Eye

When a nuclear bomb destroys an American city, national security advisor Sean Falcone must identify the attackers. Can this mean war against the entire Muslim world?

Patricia Cornwell

Red Mist

Determined to find out what happened to her former deputy chief murdered six months earlier, Kay Scarpetta travels to the Georgia Prison for Women, where an inmate has information for her. When an attempt on Scarpetta's life is made, it is only the beginning.

Michael Crichton

Micro

A group of graduate students accept work with a mysterious biotech company in Hawaii only to be abandoned in a treacherous wilderness when they discover their employer's dark agenda.

Robert Ellis

Murder Season

Assigned to investigate a double murder at a nightclub, LAPD detective Lena Gamble finds the waters are muddied by the first victim's Hollywood connections and the other victim's recent acquittal for murder.

Janet Evanovich

Love in a Nutshell

Hoping to turn her parent's summer house into a B & B, newly single, former editor Kate desperately needs start-up cash. She accepts work from Matt Culhane, who wants Kate to spy on his brewery employees. If Kate finds out who is sabotaging his business, Matt will pay her \$20,000. Can these two smoke out a saboteur or will their undeniable attraction to one another get in the way?

Diane Gabaldon

The Scottish Prisoner

In the 18th century, paroled prisoner-of-war Jamie Fraser and his old friend Tobias Quinn must travel from London to Ireland on a mission of intrigue surrounding a packet of documents and an ancient relic.

James Hall

Dead Last

When a serial killer begins to copy storylines featured on a cable TV crime series, reclusive Thorn leaves Key Largo and joins forces with an Oklahoma policewoman in a case that implicates both the show's head writer and leading man.

Steven Hunter

Soft Target

Retired marine sergeant Ray Cruz must confront a band of terrorists who have taken over the Mall of America, where they begin to systematically execute more than 1,000 hostages.



Coming Soon

Raymond Khoury
The Devil's Elixir

When rival forces on both sides of the law discover the existence of a lost herb that induces profound experiences capable of shattering the foundations of Western civilization, a violent competition to locate the herb is overseen by FBI agent Sean Reilly and his girlfriend, Tess Chaykin, who race to prevent a cataclysmic disaster.

Dean Koontz
77 Shadow Street

The affluent occupants of luxury apartments, housed in a 200-year-old mansion with a checkered past, enter into a terrifying nightmare when the haunted house reawakens, leaving no one safe from its grip.

Elizabeth George
Believing the Lie

Inspector Thomas Lynley is mystified when he's sent undercover to investigate the death of Ian Cresswell at the request of the man's uncle, the wealthy and influential Bernard Fairclough. The death has been ruled an accidental drowning, but when Lynley enlists the help of his friends Simon and Deborah St. James, the trio's digging soon reveals that the Fairclough clan is awash in secrets, lies, and motives.

R. J. Jagger
Lawyer Trap

New attorney Aspen Wilde tries to unravel a number of intertwined murders while searching for a missing associate. When the stakes get higher, she enlists the help of edgy Denver homicide detective, Nick Teffinger.

Nancy Jensen
The Sisters

19-year-old Mabel Fischer realizes that their predatory stepfather has designs on her younger sister, Bertie, and hatches their escape from their small Kentucky town. So begins an epic story spanning 70 years of the often traumatic lives of four generations of women descended from the Fischer sisters.

Alexander McCall Smith
The Forgotten Affairs of Youth

Approached by a visiting Australian philosopher for help in finding her biological father, Isabel reluctantly agrees to take the case, which is complicated by her young son's demanding interest in kites, her housekeeper's questionable financial advisor, and ongoing doubts about her engagement to Jamie.

Ian Rankin
The Impossible Dead

Malcolm Fox, a member of the Internal Affairs department that roots out dirty and compromised cops, investigates a neighboring police force and finds a trail that leads to the suicide of a prominent politician and activist.

Karen Robards
Sleepwalker

When a rookie female cop catches a professional crook in the act of stealing big bucks from a mob boss's safe, he manages to embroil her in a crime so explosive it could cost both of them their lives. Now the same people are after them both, and they realize that teaming up is the only chance they have to survive.

Al Roker
The Talk Show Murders

After an ex-cop threatens to expose his past as a con man—and ends up dead—celebrity chef Billy Blessing must find the true killer before the media and public run him out of Chicago on a rail.

Danielle Steel
Hotel Vendome

Having devoted himself to family and career after a divorce, Hugues Martin reevaluates the future after his daughter grows up and chooses to pursue an education in France. Meanwhile, Hugues falls in love with a woman who understands his professional passions.

Taylor Stevens
The Innocent

Two former members of an Argentinian cult ask Vanessa Michael Munroe to infiltrate the group in order to free a girl who was kidnapped eight years earlier.

Looking for a Laugh

Who says comic books are just for kids? Some of the funniest cartoons created are for adults. (Sorry kids!) For two fabulous examples of cartoons not for kids, read on!

The single panel comic is truly an artform. Establishing an idea and poking fun at that idea, with or without just a few choice words, all in one small square? That is a challenge for the bravest of comics, for someone like Shannon Wheeler. Mr. Wheeler's newest book, *I Thought You Would Be Funnier* is full of humor that will catch your attention and have you laughing out loud before you know what happened. The hard part is trying not to make someone look at every panel after it's read, saying "Ha Ha, Look at *this* one!"

Five Very Good Reasons to Punch a Dolphin in the Mouth

by Matthew Inman
Mr. Inman has the more traditional multiple panel comics, but that might be the only thing that's traditional about the artist or his adult graphic novel. Mr. Inman's dynamic and endlessly entertaining website theoatmeal.com has plenty to enjoy, but readers new to his humor might want to start with the more linear approach found in his book. Be warned, his observations are hilarious and can cause spontaneous snorting, but the potential embarrassment is well worth the risk.



—Stacey Hayman

Love Endures

In his stunning debut novel, *This Burns My Heart*, Samuel Park has given us a beautiful story of love, passion, pain, regret and redemption in post-war South Korea. Soo-Ja Choi is raised in a wealthy family by traditional parents who, although they have good intentions, thwart her lifelong dream of moving to Seoul and becoming a diplomat. Resigned to the fact that she will never attend school as she wishes, Soo-Ja is soon engaged to marry an insecure, unknown local student named Min who passionately pursues her. As luck would have it, just before her marriage, she meets Yul, with whom she has an instant deep connection. Wanting to please her family and be the dutiful daughter, she marries Min despite her doubts. *This Burns My Heart* follows Soo-Ja as she lives the life she never intended for herself, trying to retain the trust of her father, aching for her lost hopes, and mostly, longing for her true love.

This epic story will captivate you from the beginning with its richly drawn characters and emotional plot. It is one to remember!

—Maureen Stratton

In from the Trenches

In *The Return of Captain John Emmett* by debut author Elizabeth Speller, Laurie Bartram is just one of the broken men who have returned home from WWI. He lost his wife and their son in childbirth while he served, and now, back in London, he longs for some sort of normalcy. Instead, Laurie is asked by the beautiful Mary Emmett to investigate the apparent suicide of her brother John, Laurie's former school-day pal. Did John Emmett succumb to his post-war mental anguish, or could he really have been murdered? Readers who take home this smart and eloquently written mystery will also discover an atmospheric and truly moving story about the ramifications of war.

—Carol O'Keefe

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QUIRKY READS

The Revenge of the Radioactive Lady

Elizabeth Stuckey-French

Back in the 1950s, Marylou Ahearn was an unknowing participant in an experiment involving pregnant women and radioactivity; both mother and daughter paid the price. Discovering the current location of the doctor who led the experiment, Marylou decides to get revenge. But when she finds a slightly senile Dr. Spriggs living with his daughter and her family, Marylou's plans change. Now she wants to make the whole family pay, but how will she do it?

Quirky characters, unexpected developments, and some difficult topics, this book covers a lot of ground but never feels scattered or out of control. Readers looking for something a little darker or a great book discussion selection will love this title.

The Last Werewolf

Glen Duncan

Jacob Marlowe, a 200-year-old werewolf who might just be the last of his kind, has grown tired of his monthly transformations. Having had enough of murder and sex to last several lifetimes, a maudlin Jacob is ready for his pursuers to finish him off, until he discovers he has a reason to live—love.

While this bloody, dirty, sexy, and funny read isn't for all readers, those who don't mind rooting for a tortured monster will find the character of Jacob Marlowe to be a surprisingly smart and likeable antihero. You'll want to devour this fast-paced read in a single sitting.

WOMEN'S FICTION

The McCloud Home for Wayward Girls

Wendy DelSol

All three generations of McCloud women have secrets to keep, and so far they've been successful, but when Keith Fraser's aunt passes away and his old flame Jill McCloud agrees to have the funeral gatherings at her inn, the stories begin slipping out.

This story is based around a wonderfully imagined small town with all the best and worst aspects intact, and that's part of what makes it such an entertaining novel.

The Little Women Letters

Gabrielle Donnelly

The London Atwaters are direct descendants of Jo March from "Little Women." When Lulu Atwater's mother asks her to retrieve a memento from their attic, Lulu discovers the letters of Jo March to her sisters. She finds that her life mirrors Jo's in so many ways. Lulu becomes obsessed with the letters and, thanks to Jo, finds a new acceptance of her own personality.

A truly charming and wonderful story that is sometimes tender and poignant, sometimes lively and funny. The Atwater sisters, just like the March sisters, will win your heart.

Angelina's Bachelors

Brian O'Reilly

When Angelina suddenly loses her husband and her job, she decides to make money doing what she loves—cooking! Her clients are the neighborhood bachelors, desperate for some of her fabulous food. When the Philadelphia public health department threatens to shut her down, Angelina and her family and friends devise a perfect plan.

This well-written tale of a woman's grief and recovery in the bosom of her South Philly neighborhood is warm and witty, with a dose of deliciousness. The novel is speckled with Angelina's recipes, which sound amazing, but be forewarned—they're complicated!

Between the Covers...

LITERARY FICTION

Snowdrops

Andrew Miller

British lawyer Nick Platt practices law in Russia and doesn't ask too many questions about the shady dealings and violence he witnesses. After he meets a set of sisters, one of whom he tells himself he's falling in love with, he becomes too easily involved in a scheme to get their aunt a new apartment.

Miller, who worked in Russia as a journalist, paints a fascinating portrait of modern Russia in all its sordid and decadent allure. Nick is not a character to love; as he tells the story of his fall from grace to his English fiancée, you find yourself feeling a bit disgusted by his easy manipulation and warped self-justification.

To Be Sung Underwater

Tom McNeal

Judith Whitman left for college at Stanford and quickly shed her small-town ways, but she left Willy Blunt behind, a young man who loved her with all his heart. As her life spun further away from Nebraska and Willy, Judith married Malcolm Toomey and they had a daughter. She pursued a successful career in film editing in L.A. Almost 30 years later, she misses Willy with a sharpness that takes her breath away. In her longing and sadness, she searches for Willy with shattering results.

Do we ever forget our first love? Tom McNeal writes a beautiful, intense novel of first love and its loss. Heartbreaking and memorable. McNeal is immensely talented.

The Submission

Amy Waldman

When Mohammad Kahn wins a juried competition to design the Ground Zero memorial, he gets more than he bargained for when his Muslim identity is uncovered.

Waldman presents many things to think about in this agonizing book about making the right decisions and being true to oneself in the face of criticisms and prejudice.

MYSTERY

Eyes of the Innocent

Brad Parks

After Carter Ross and his new bubbly, blonde intern, known around the paper as "Sweet Thang," write a story about a local arson fire that killed two children, they become involved in a city-wide house flipping scandal involving a councilman who has been taking bribes from a secretive contractor. Now they must convince the police what is really going on before more people die.

Carter and his news reporting crew are as big a bunch of misfits as you can imagine. Parks writes with irreverent, sassy humor and you'll find yourself laughing out loud at Carter—the Ivy League white guy who earns the respect of tough Newark residents while solving the crime.

The Girl in the Green Raincoat

Laura Lippman

Even though she is confined in the latter stages of her first pregnancy, the versatile Tess is obsessed with finding the missing third wife of a man who, quite astonishingly, has already lost his first two wives and a girlfriend.

This is the 11th installment featuring the talented Tess Monaghan. The series is cleverly engaging—entertaining in a gently thought-provoking way. While this concise volume can easily stand alone, its captivating charms will quite likely lead you into surveying earlier exploits.

The Good Thief's Guide to Venice

Chris Ewan

Mystery writer/thief for hire Charlie Howard goes to Venice to get straight and finish his next novel, but when his framed and signed first edition of "The Maltese Falcon" is stolen before his very eyes, Charlie can't write without it. In order to reclaim his most-prized possession, Charlie must resort to burglary—something he swore to his agent, Victoria, that he was through with. Whatever is a good thief to do?

Set in the enchanting city of Venice, this fourth Charlie Howard mystery is a satisfying addition to a smart and clever series and is downright romantic.

...25 Years and Counting!

An Unusual Friendship

Emory's Gift by W. Bruce Cameron is the story of thirteen-year-old Charlie and his dad who are dealing separately with their grief after Charlie's mom dies of leukemia. His father is absent emotionally and Charlie feels guilty. While fishing, Charlie is rescued from a mountain lion by a grizzly bear self-named Emory. The bear and Charlie develop a kind of friendship that allows Emory to stay in the barn with his father's permission, and they feed him. In addition to trying to keep the bear a secret from the rest of world, Charlie is dealing with the social challenges of junior high and his father's girlfriend. Eventually the authorities become involved with removing Emory for the safety of the community, but Charlie is positive that the bear has a message to share with the world before he can return to the wild.

There are references to an unusual reincarnation in **Emory's Gift** also present in Cameron's previous novel, **A Dog's Purpose**. This is a heartwarming story for animal lovers and those who are not.

—Emma Dittmar

Survivor: Pageant Edition

Beauty Queens by Libba Bray is a tongue-in-cheek satire that doesn't pull any punches. When a plane full of beauty queens crashes on a seemingly deserted island, the survivors are stranded without food, water, or basic beauty supplies. While the girls struggle to survive in an unflappable pageant fashion, a sinister plot unfolds nearby. The pageant's sponsor, The Corporation, has a plan to kill the girls for political and financial gain. Politics, pageants, and reality TV shows are all fuel for folly in this hilarious new offering from the author of **Going Bovine**.

—Megan Alabaugh

Murder Most Foul

In her latest novel, **Close Your Eyes**, Amanda Eyre Ward cleverly intertwines the complex lives of her characters in a page-turning, captivating story. Lauren, whose mother was murdered when she was very young, has always believed her father guilty of the crime and has refused to discuss the details. Alex, Lauren's much beloved brother, has always believed him innocent and has even recently pursued the decades-old case to clear their father's name and get him released from prison. When Alex leaves to volunteer with Doctors without Borders in Iraq and then goes missing, Lauren finally decides to face her own fears, grief, and panic attacks to try to get to the bottom of what really happened to her mother. This story pulls you in from the beginning as you travel this long path with Lauren and discover some sinister family secrets along the way.

—Maureen Stratton

Fractured Fairy Tales

Two hundred years ago a villain known only as The Adversary drove the denizens of fables and fairy tales from their homelands. The survivors now live, protected by magic and wards, in the heart of New York City. These residents of Fabletown have set aside old rivalries and have coexisted peacefully for hundreds of years. This peace is disrupted when Rose Red disappears, leaving only a trail of blood behind her. Fingers are pointed and accusations fly as the head of security, Bigby Wolf, aka The Bid Bad Wolf, investigates the crime.

Legends in Exile is the first volume in the "Fables" series, by Bill Willingham. Originally published as a serial comic, the volumes have been combined in a graphic novel format. Readers may recognize familiar names, but these aren't the characters they knew as children. Dark, gritty, and full of humor, these fractured fables are a real treat.

—Megan Alabaugh

Between the Covers...

Northern Exposure

Author Ellen Airgood's debut novel, **South of Superior**, is an authentic slice of small-town life, which is not surprising since Airgood lives and owns a diner in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Madeline Stone is shocked when she receives a letter from Gladys and Arbutus, two elderly sisters, who were friends of Madeline's deceased grandfather. They are requesting help in caring for the ailing Arbutus, just until she is back on her feet. Madeline does not feel too kindly toward the sisters since Gladys was actually her grandfather's lover, the very same grandfather who turned his back on Madeline when she was a child who desperately needed his help. Madeline's life in Chicago is not all peaches and cream, so she decides that she will go to the sisters' aid.

What awaits her in the Upper Peninsula are two strong-willed, secretive women, a town full of hardship and poverty, and the chance for a new life. Although there are many glitches along the way, Madeline chooses that new life carefully. She sees a bit of promise in an abandoned hotel that Gladys still owns. In lovingly caring for Arbutus, bumping heads with Gladys, and reopening the hotel, Madeline makes peace with her past, as she steps into her future.

—Rosemary Ward

A Fun Discovery

Professor Deborah Harkness has put her professional expertise into **A Discovery of Witches**, an over 500 page first novel. Apprehensive? Don't be. Along with the history and science there is plenty of action, romance and paranormal creatures. Protagonist, Diana Bishop, is a witch (non-practicing) and respected historian who's research leads to an enchanted manuscript that may change the world. It's fun, epic, interesting and the first of a trilogy. The hard part will be waiting for the next two to be published!

—Julie Mortensen

Turn up the Heat

White Heat by M.J. McGrath is a sizzling first novel set in the coldest climate on Earth- the Arctic. Edie Kiglatuk is one of the best guides in the Canadian Arctic. While she is guiding two "southerners" (anyone who hails from south of the Circle) on a hunting expedition, one of the men is mysteriously shot, but his death is later chalked up as accidental. However, when another accident occurs while her stepson Joe is guiding hunters, Edie suspects foul play, and is determined to figure out what's going on in her normally sleepy part of the world. She soon finds herself caught up in a complex and dangerous series of events. Edie is a fierce, wild, and tenacious protagonist in this fast-paced debut mystery. Pour a cup of qungik (aka Labrador tea), ladle up a bowl of seal-blood soup and keep warm!

—Ann Jackson

Secrets and Salvation

Zinzi December's got a sloth slung on her back, a cynical wit and a gift for finding missing items. Responsible for the death of her brother, she's forced to live in a violent slum in Johannesburg with the other "animalled," those marked for their crime by an animal companion and a magical talent. Zinzi gets paid for writing e-mail scams and for her skill; burdened by debts from her former drug habit, she's willing to search in the filthiest of places to find her clients' lost valuables. When she's hired to find a missing musical duo, Zinzi discovers more depravity than she bargained for and, with that, a shot at redemption.

In **Zoo City**, Lauren Beukes writes with an ear for wordplay and dialogue, creating a hectic, gritty world that casts a keen eye on the problems of our own. This Arthur C. Clarke award winner is part urban fantasy, part thriller and entirely electrifying.

—Dori Olivos

...25 Years and Counting!

Rocky River Public Library

Love Happens

Meet Imogene Gilfeather (affectionately known as Im) and Wally Yez (or Yez as Im likes to call him).

This is a love story, but you should know right off the bat that ***Starting From Happy*** is written by former writer for Saturday Night Live, Patricia Marx. So it's funny, quirky and surprising. Plus it's written in chap-lettes (chapters so tiny they can be but a word) and it's filled with witty illustrations.

It starts out happy. In the early days of their relationship, Im and Yez marveled at their serendipitous meeting. What were the chances that both of them would have been at the same going-away party and both in the apple pie line? And, too, they were so alike—they both used mechanical pencils neither had a dog or mumps, neither had been to Istanbul. How could this relationship fail?

They start out strong. "She loved to watch him listen to jazz. He got a charge every time she pronounced the word strawberry." And then things change, not drastically, but slowly and sadly. They start going their separate ways; she rekindles an affair with an old lover; he takes on a new one. Even though they never marry, they stay together and raise their children: Wallace Gilfeather-Yez, Jr., LinLin and Bounce.

From the very beginning, Im and Yez accepted each other for who they are. Maybe that's why they stayed together well into their nineties, still accepting one another. As Im said from the outset when a mutual friend told her about knowing the perfect guy for her, "Perfect is not my type."

—Chris Nowak

New Holiday Titles—All Wrapped Up!



Christmas Stories
by Max Lucado

The Christmas Shoppe
by Melody Carlson

An Angel for Christmas
by Heather Graham

An O'Brien Family Christmas
by Sherryl Woods

A Lawman's Christmas
by Linda Lael Miller

1225 Christmas Tree Lane
by Debbie Macomber

The Christmas Wedding
by James Patterson

A Christmas Homecoming
by Anne Perry

Christmas Treasures
by Thomas Kincaide

When Elves Attack
by Tim Dorsey

The Christmas Note
by Donna Vanliere