

Between the Covers features a taste of what you'll find in **The Reading Room**, our browsing database of over 7,000 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

The Sense of an Ending

Julian Barnes

When middle-aged Tony receives a letter from a solicitor leaving him a diary, it dredges up memories of his high school friendship with the brilliant Adrian Finn and their later college years when both dated a woman named Veronica.

The errors of memory, the ease of self-deception, and the rewriting of our past are all topics that Barnes ruminates on in this slim volume. Beautifully written with strong characterizations. Winner of the 2011 Booker Prize.

Please Look After Mom

Kyung-Sook Shin

This is a heartbreaking story of a mother who sacrificed everything for her family, only to be abandoned by them all, in various ways.

Beautifully written novel with memorable characters and a compelling story. Will make you re-examine your own family relationships once you've finished it.

The Good Daughters

Joyce Maynard

Though their families couldn't be more different, the lives of Ruth Plank and Dana Dickerson become entwined when they are born on the same day in the same hospital. Ruth, born to farmers who have been in New Hampshire for generations, is artistic and always feels different from her family. Dana, born to a free-spirited mother and an often absent father, feels the pull of the land.

Told in alternating chapters from each daughter's perspective, Maynard's novel is a thoughtful look at families, nature and nurture.

The Art of Fielding

Chad Harbach

Mike Schwartz discovers shortstop phenom Henry Skrimshander and convinces him to play baseball at Westish College in Wisconsin. When Henry throws a ball that hits his roommate Owen, his record is broken, his confidence shot, and his future changed. Meanwhile, college president and Melville scholar Guert Affenlight falls in love with Owen just as his prodigal daughter Pella returns home after a failed marriage.

The lives of five characters and the crises they face are intertwined in this intelligent novel that stresses the bonds of friendship and love.

TEEN READS

Haunting Violet

Alyxandra Harvey

Sixteen-year-old Violet Willoughby has been a part of her mother's Spiritualism scam for most of her life and knows without a doubt that ghosts are not real. Her skepticism is shattered when a ghost begins appearing to her during an elaborate ruse staged at the country estate of a wealthy Spiritualist. The only way to end the haunting is to solve the mystery of the ghost's death.

Murder, mystery, intrigue, and romance combine in this paranormal historical fiction. Great characters, spooky ghosts, and a swoon-worthy best friend-turned love interest make this one a winner.



MYSTERY/SUSPENSE

Spycatcher

Matthew Dunn

Will Cochrane is "Spartan," a super-elite spy working for British Intelligence. Will is very, very good at his job as an assassin, but not always good at playing by the book. When the MI6 and the CIA join forces and ask Will to track down and kill Megiddo, a terrorist believed to be an Iranian Revolutionary Guard general, Will thinks this will be like any workday. Unfortunately for Will, however, he has just met his match.

Nonstop action and suspense jam-pack this debut by Matthew Dunn, who himself spent years as an MI6 field operative. With a larger than life protagonist, readers will be reminded of characters like James Bond, Jason Bourne, and Dirk Pitt. Perfect reading for espionage thriller fans.

Naughty In Nice

Rhys Bowen

Penniless Lady Georgiana travels to the French Riviera compliments of Queen Mary. While there her assignment is to recover a valuable snuff box stolen by Sir Toby Groper. She is given the opportunity to model in Coco Chanel's fashion show wearing a necklace borrowed from the queen. It is stolen during the chaos that follows when Georgie trips and falls off the stage. Later Groper is found dead in his pool, and Georgie is arrested for his murder.

The familiar cast of characters appear in the fifth Royal Spyness mystery making this a fun quick read.

NONFICTION

Poser: My Life in Twenty-three

Yoga Poses

Claire Dederer

With each chapter titled after a yoga pose, freelance writer Dederer writes of her life as a mother, wife, and friend through the lens of her discovery of yoga and its acceptance of imperfection.

Hilarious at times, insightful often, and always well-written, this memoir delivers a jolt of introspection with a dose of yoga.

SHORT STORIES

Swim Back to Me

Ann Packer

This collection of short stories is bookended by two novellas. The first, "Walk for Mankind" chronicles the short-lived friendship of 13-year-old Richard and Sasha. "Things Said or Done" revisits Sasha as an adult at her brother's wedding. The stories in between are tales of families, relationships, and emotional difficulties.

Poignant and well-written, these tender shortstories will stay with you.



HISTORICAL FICTION

The Scrapbook of Frankie Pratt

Caroline Preston

In the early 1920s, Frankie finds her father's typewriter in the attic and begins a scrapbook to chronicle her adventures. When she graduates high school and has an encounter with an older man, Frankie's mom sends her packing on scholarship to Vassar. College is just the beginning. Frankie eventually lands in Paris, where, among other things, she begins work as a paid writer, meets James Joyce, and becomes a character in Hemingway's latest novel.

This scrapbook-as-novel is filled with whimsical drawings, postcards and photos that are loaded with vintage charm. This coming-of-age story brings the 1920s to life and is presented in an original and lovely package that would make a lovely gift.