Robin Cook
_Coverd Warriors_
When a hostile Third World country begins to receive military training and nuclear technology from foreign nations, Charley Castillo and his team investigate only to be abandoned by the U.S. government and placed on hit lists throughout the world.

Steven Havill
_One Perfect Shot_
When a county worker is found shot to death in his truck, Undersheriff Bill Gastner's investigation reveals that the victim did nothing to defend himself. Meanwhile, Gastner learns his new coworker is Estelle Reyes, the county's first female deputy, whose presence rattles everyone, including several skeletons lurking in Posadas County closets.

Judith A. Jance
_Left for Dead_
Santa Cruz county deputy sheriff Jose Reyes, Ali Reynolds' former friend and classmate from the Arizona Police Academy, is gunned down and left to die. Ali is compelled to help and soon finds herself in a deadly situation confronting a drug cartel.

Jonathan Kellerman
_Victims_
The insufferable Vita Berlin was murdered and everyone assumes it was for revenge, but when a second victim is found, a serial killer is suspected. Not surprisingly, Alex Delaware's investigations uncover something even more sinister.

Sophie Kinsella
_I've Got Your Number_
No matter what her fiancé Magnus Tavish's family thinks of her, Poppy is excited to marry him. But when her engagement ring, a huge Tavish family heirloom, vanishes, chaos ensues and Poppy learns just exactly the type of family she may be marrying into.

John Lescroart
_The Hunter_
When an anonymous tip reveals that his birth mother was murdered, San Francisco P.I. Wyatt Hunt must track down the surviving members of his biological family to find out what happened.

Liz Moore
_Heft_
Very obese, former academic Arthur Opp hasn't left his Brooklyn home in over ten years. Twenty miles away in Yonkers, 17-year-old Kel Keller hopes to escape poverty with a baseball career. When Kel's mom asks Arthur for help, the two men are brought together into an unlikely, yet heartwarming friendship.

Stewart O'Nan
_The Odds_
Art and Marion Fowler think their marriage is done for, so they head to Niagara Falls for a second-chance, second honeymoon. There, they hope to use what little cash they have saved on a chance to spin the roulette wheel. Will luck and love prevail?

T. Jefferson Parker
_The Jaguar_
When the songwriter wife of a corrupt Los Angeles County sheriff deputy is kidnapped by a ruthless Gulf Cartel leader, he orders her to compose a folk ballad about his life. The resulting song gets the attentions of Charlie Hood, who must work with the deputy to secure the woman's rescue.

George Pelecanos
_What It Was_
In 1972 Washington, D.C., ex-cop private investigator Derek Strange teams up with his former partner, Frank "Hound Dog" Vaughn, to track down a ruthless killer named Red Fury.

Matthew Reilly
_Scarecrow Returns_
Pitted against a large and secretive terrorist group that has seized control of an island in the Arctic, Marine Captain Shane Schofield and his ragtag crew are ordered by the President to stop the organization's zealous plot to destroy the planet.

Tatiana De Rosnay
_The House I Loved_
In Paris in the 1860s, Napoleon III orders houses to be destroyed to create a more modern city, but Rose Bazelet refuses to leave her home. Instead she remains in the basement, writing to her late husband and coming to terms with a secret she's kept for 30 years.

Tom Rob Smith
_Agent 6_
When his wife and daughters are invited to New York City, former member of Moscow's secret police Leo Demidov is suspicious. Forbidden to travel overseas, Leo watches helplessly as his family is pulled into a web of political conspiracy. In the horrible aftermath, Leo seeks revenge and takes matters into his own hands.

Charles Todd
_The Confession_
Detective Ian Rutledge is on duty when a man confesses to a murder several years old. Rutledge investigates but with no body or clues, he cannot charge the man. A few weeks later, the confessed killer himself is found shot dead. Does the locket found in his pocket hold clues to his death?

Penny Vincenzi
_Another Woman_
Cressida goes to bed the night before her dream wedding, but has vanished by morning. Her family is devastated, but in the wake of the investigation, a complex and fragile web of secrets are revealed.

Lauren Willig
_The Garden Intrigue_
Secret Agent Augustus Whilesby has been living undercover in France for a decade, posing as a poet. The thorn in his side is the widow Emma Delagardie, who is extremely critical of his poetry. When Augustus needs an invitation to Napoleon's private party to learn about a top-secret device, the only way in is through Emma.

Hilma Wolitzer
_An Available Man_
While mourning the death of his adored wife, 62-year-old Edward Schuyler is profiled in a singles ad by his stepchildren and goes on several unsettling dates before a chance encounter leads to a promising new relationship.

Stuart Woods
_D.C. Dead_
Evaluating his life in New York after a shocking loss, Stone Barrington is summoned by the President to Washington. There, Stone is assigned to a special ops mission that reunites him with his former partner, Holly Barker.
Rocky River Public Library

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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.

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.

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.

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 short stories 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.

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 short stories will stay with you.