

BETWEEN THE COVERS

The Reading Room is a database of nearly 8,000 titles that have been read and reviewed by our own Library staff. The Reading Room can be found on our website or at <http://readingroom.rrpl.org>

SEPTEMBER

Ken Follett

A Column of Fire

Young Ned Willard is caught in the middle of the conflict between Catholics and Protestants in 16th-century England. In love with a Catholic woman, he is hired to work for Princess Elizabeth, who establishes England's first secret service when she becomes Queen.

John le Carré

A Legacy of Spies

George Smiley's disciple, Peter Guillam, is summoned out of retirement by a letter from the current government. They are investigating the Cold War activities of Smiley, Guillam and others, and have no memories of past threats and no tolerance for bygone rationalizations.

Alice McDermott

The Ninth Hour

A young Irish immigrant in 1900s Brooklyn turns on his tenement's gas taps after losing his job and facing demands by his pregnant wife. His widow and unborn child are tended to by Sister St. Savoir, but his suicide is never discussed. The results of this affect his friends and family for generations.

Celeste Ng

Little Fires Everywhere

Unconventional artist Mia Warren and her teenage daughter move to Shaker Heights and rent a house from the Richardsons, a seemingly perfect family. Tensions ensue when a local family tries to adopt a Chinese-American baby, threatening the idyllic community.

Jesmyn Ward

Sing, Unburied, Sing

Jojo and his toddler sister, Kayla, live with their grandparents in rural Mississippi. When their drug addict mother, Leonie, learns that the white father of her children is being released from prison, she packs up the children and journeys to the state penitentiary.

OCTOBER

Dan Brown

Origin

Brown combines art, religion, science, history and symbolism into the latest story of Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon.

Michael Connelly

Two Kinds of Truth

Working as a volunteer on cold cases, Harry Bosch is called to investigate the murder of a local pharmacist; the evidence implicates pill mills and prescription drug abuse. Meanwhile, a con Harry sent to prison is claiming that he was framed.

Jennifer Egan

Manhattan Beach

As a child, Anna Kerrigan accompanied her father on a visit to Dexter Styles, a man she senses is responsible for her family's survival during the Depression. As an adult, her father long since vanished, she is working as a diver at the Brooklyn Navy Yard during WWII when she encounters Styles once again and begins to understand the mysteries of her father's life.

Tom Hanks

Uncommon Type: Some Stories

Academy Award winning actor Hanks has penned his first story collection, including the tale of an eccentric millionaire and his assistant who find a little romance in a run-down motel in middle America, and the story of an Eastern European immigrant, who, after escaping a civil war, has trouble adjusting to a new life in New York City.

Alice Hoffman

Rules of Magic

Set in New York in the early 60's, this prequel to Hoffman's *Practical Magic* finds the Owens women having romance problems resulting from a curse in 1620. Mother Susanna warns her daughters of many things, but most importantly she tells them to never fall in love. The young women, however, are keen to rid themselves of the family curse.

NOVEMBER

Isabel Allende

In the Midst of Winter

One snowy night, 60-year-old human rights scholar Richard Bowmaster hits the car of Evelyn Ortega, a young, undocumented Guatemalan woman. When Evelyn appears at his house seeking help, Richard seeks the help of his tenant, Lucia, and a relationship blooms.

Louise Erdrich

Future Home of the Living God

Erdrich ventures into science fiction with this title about a society in which evolution is reversing and women are giving birth to primitive species of humans. As society collapses, pregnant Cedar Hawk Songmaker must protect her baby at all costs.

Patricia Hayes-McCoy

The Library at the Edge of the World

Hanna Casey's comfortable life is upended and she flees home to the small Irish village she left in her teens to move in with her mother. Getting a job at the local library, she is determined to reclaim her life, starting with fixing up a local cottage to call her own, until that is jeopardized by the threatened closure of the library.

Khizr Khan

The American: A Memoir of Hope and Sacrifice

Pakistani-American Khan, whose son, U.S. Army Captain Humayun Khan, was killed in Iraq in 2004, tells the story of his family's immigration from Pakistan, his son's life and death, and his own commitment to the U.S. Constitution.

Andy Weir

Artemis

Artemis, the only city on the moon, is a difficult place to live if you're not a billionaire. So Jazz Bashara doesn't see herself as a criminal, though she does a bit of smuggling. That changes when she finds the chance to commit the perfect crime and instead, gets involved in a conspiracy for control of Artemis.

DECEMBER

Katherine Arden

The Girl in the Tower

In this sequel to last year's *The Bear and the Nightingale*, set in a fantastical Russia, young Vasya, thrown out of her home by the villagers, faces marriage or life in a convent. Instead, she disguises herself as a boy and rides off to battle bandits who threaten the kingdom.

Jennifer Chiaverini

Enchantress of Numbers: A Novel of Ada Lovelace

Based on the life of Lord Byron's only legitimate daughter, this is the story of Ada Lovelace, trained in science and mathematics from childhood, who becomes fascinated by Charles Babbage's calculating machine, the world's first computer programmer.

Robert Crais

The Wanted

Elvis Cole and his partner Joe Pike return to help a single mother investigate her son's recent surprising wealth, discovering that it stems from a group of high-end burglaries that have turned deadly.

Nora Roberts

Year One

The first of a new trilogy, Roberts invents a dystopic world where government has failed and most of the population is destroyed. There remains, however, a group of survivors, including New Yorkers Lana and Max, who want to begin again.

Joanna Schaffhausen

The Vanishing Season

Ellery Hathaway has a secret: years ago, she was the only survivor of a serial killer. She should be relieved, but for the past three years, people in her town have disappeared near the date of her kidnapping. Soon, she's back in touch with the only person who knows her past, the FBI agent who rescued her.