

All My Puny Sorrows

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Book Of Sands - Karim Alrawi 2015-09-01

A powerful, lyrical novel of the endurance of love, set amid the upheaval of the Arab Spring and the brutal repression of a totalitarian regime Tarek, a young father, watches as the city he lives in is mired in protests, hemmed in by barricades and strangely inundated by great flocks of birds. Facing the threat of police arrest, he flees with his nine-year-old daughter, Neda. He is forced to leave behind his pregnant wife, Mona, under the watchful eye of Omar, her deeply troubled and religious brother. Compounding the difficulties of these times, babies refuse to be born and mothers stop giving birth. As Tarek and Nada journey through villages razed by conflict toward a mountain refuge, they meet with travellers from Tarek's past and his time as a political prisoner. The reunion reveals secrets that Tarek must come to terms with for his own and Neda's sake. Ultimately, he must decide where this journey will take them and if he will ever be able to return home again. In the tradition of Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children* and Orhan Pamuk's *Snow*, debut novelist Karim Alrawi deftly weaves an atmospheric, multi-layered story of intimate lives, informed by recent events and heightened by touches of magic realism, set against the wider canvas of historic events.

A Boy of Good Breeding - Miriam Toews 2019-03-12

Winner of the McNally Robinson Book of the Year Award "Tonic for the

spirit: a charming, deeply moving, unerringly human story, perfectly shaped and beautifully told." —The Globe and Mail Life in Winnipeg didn't go as planned for Knute and her daughter. But living back in Algren with her parents and working for the longtime mayor, Hosea Funk, has its own challenges: Knute finds herself mixed up with Hosea's attempts to achieve his dream of meeting the Prime Minister—even if that means keeping the town's population at an even 1,500. Bringing to life small-town Canada and all its larger-than-life characters, *A Boy of Good Breeding* is a big-hearted, hilarious novel about finding out where you belong.

Niccolo Rising - Dorothy Dunnett 2010-08-11

In this first book of *The House of Niccolò* series, the author of the *Lymond Chronicles* introduces a new hero, Nicholas vander Poele of Bruges, the good-natured dyer's apprentice who schemes and swashbuckles his way to the helm of a mercantile empire. With the bravura storytelling and pungent authenticity of detail she brought to her acclaimed *Lymond Chronicles*, Dorothy Dunnett, grande dame of the historical novel, presents *The House of Niccolò* series. The time is the 15th century, when intrepid merchants became the new knighthood of Europe. Among them, none is bolder or more cunning than Nicholas vander Poele of Bruges. *Niccolò Rising*, Book One of the series, finds us

in Bruges, 1460. Jousting is the genteel pastime, and successful merchants are, of necessity, polyglot. Street smart, brilliant at figures, adept at the subtleties of diplomacy and the well-timed untruth, Dunnett's hero rises from wastrel to prodigy in a breathless adventure that wins him the hand of the strongest woman in Bruges and the hatred of two powerful enemies. From a riotous and potentially murderous carnival in Flanders, to an avalanche in the Alps and a pitched battle on the outskirts of Naples, Niccolò Rising combines history, adventure, and high romance in the tradition stretching from Alexandre Dumas to Mary Renault.

This is Where We Live - Janelle Brown 2013-10-31

Life is beautiful for Claudia and Jeremy. They are a young, bohemian couple whose hard work in both the film and music world is finally paying off. Claudia's first film is in the can and Jeremy and his band are going places. Now seems like the perfect time to settle down and buy a house. But this is summer 2008, and the credit crunch is round the corner. In a matter of weeks Claudia's film becomes a box-office flop, Jeremy's band stalls and - worst of all - they find themselves unable to pay the mortgage, with the bank threatening repossession. The life they've been dreaming of comes tumbling down around them. Claudia takes a teaching job in attempt to placate the bank, and suddenly everything their relationship has been built on looks precarious. Jeremy sees her 'selling out' as a betrayal of their bohemian values, and when his glamorous ex-girlfriend Aoki, a famous painter, returns to LA, Claudia starts to realise that her relationship is in danger of disintegrating unless she does something to save it...

The Flying Troutmans - Miriam Toews 2019-02-12

"This saga of bad luck and good company is a wry, scary, heartfelt ode to the traverses we have to make in life when we're at the end of our rope and there's no net below us." —ELLE When Hattie's moody boyfriend dumps her in Paris, she returns home to find that her sister Min is in the psych ward again. Freaked out by the prospect of becoming a surrogate mother to Min's kids, Logan and Thebes, Hattie decides to take them in the family van to find their father, last heard to be running an

idiosyncratic art gallery in South Dakota. What ensues is a remarkable journey across America, as aunt and kids—through chaos as diverse as their personalities—discover one another to be both far crazier and far more normal than any of them thought.

All My Puny Sorrows - Miriam Toews 2014-06-03

Miriam Toews's *All My Puny Sorrows* - Sunday Times Top Choice Summer Read Elf and Yoli are two smart, loving sisters. Elf is a world-renowned pianist, glamorous, wealthy, happily married: she wants to die. Yoli is divorced, broke, sleeping with the wrong men: she desperately wants to keep her older sister alive. When Elf's latest suicide attempt leaves her hospitalised weeks before her highly anticipated world tour, Yoli is forced to confront the impossible question of whether it is better to let a loved one go. Miriam Toews's *All My Puny Sorrows*, at once tender and unquiet, offers a profound reflection on the limits of love, and the sometimes unimaginable challenges we experience when childhood becomes a new country of adult commitments and responsibilities. 'The novel she has written - so exquisitely that you'll want to savour every word - reads as if it has been wrenched from her heart.' Christina Patterson, Sunday Times '[Miriam Toews] has produced a masterly book of such precise dignity. It is, also against all the odds, at times a desperately humorous novel.' Daily Mail 'Toews takes her place alongside Alice Munro, Robertson Davies, Margaret Atwood and Mordicai Richler as the loveliest quintet of Canadian writing.' Los Angeles Times

World Literature, Neoliberalism, and the Culture of Discontent - Sharae Deckard 2019-01-30

This book explains neoliberalism as a phenomenon of the capitalist world-system. Many writers focus on the cultural or ideological symptoms of neoliberalism only when they are experienced in Europe and America. This collection seeks to restore globalized capitalism as the primary object of critique and to distinguish between neoliberal ideology and processes of neoliberalization. It explores the ways in which cultural studies can teach us about aspects of neoliberalism that economics and political journalism cannot or have not: the particular affects,

subjectivities, bodily dispositions, socio-ecological relations, genres, forms of understanding, and modes of political resistance that register neoliberalism. Using a world-systems perspective for cultural studies, the essays in this collection examine cultural productions from across the neoliberal world-system, bringing together works that might have in the past been separated into postcolonial studies and Anglo-American Studies.

Family Life: A Novel - Akhil Sharma 2014-04-07

Winner of the 2016 International Dublin Literary Award "Gorgeously tender at its core...beautiful, heartstopping...Family Life really blazes." —Sonali Deraniyagala, New York Times Book Review Hailed as a "supreme storyteller" (Philadelphia Inquirer) for his "cunning, dismaying and beautifully conceived" fiction (New York Times), Akhil Sharma is possessed of a narrative voice "as hypnotic as those found in the pages of Dostoyevsky" (The Nation). In his highly anticipated second novel, Family Life, he delivers a story of astonishing intensity and emotional precision. We meet the Mishra family in Delhi in 1978, where eight-year-old Ajay and his older brother Birju play cricket in the streets, waiting for the day when their plane tickets will arrive and they and their mother can fly across the world and join their father in America. America to the Mishras is, indeed, everything they could have imagined and more: when automatic glass doors open before them, they feel that surely they must have been mistaken for somebody important. Pressing an elevator button and the elevator closing its doors and rising, they have a feeling of power at the fact that the elevator is obeying them. Life is extraordinary until tragedy strikes, leaving one brother severely brain-damaged and the other lost and virtually orphaned in a strange land. Ajay, the family's younger son, prays to a God he envisions as Superman, longing to find his place amid the ruins of his family's new life. Heart-wrenching and darkly funny, Family Life is a universal story of a boy torn between duty and his own survival.

A Complicated Kindness - Miriam Toews 2019-01-15

Winner of the Governor General's Literary Award In this stunning coming-of-age novel, the award-winning author of Women Talking

balances grief and hope in the voice of a witty, beleaguered teenager whose family is shattered by fundamentalist Christianity "Half of our family, the better-looking half, is missing," Nomi Nickel tells us at the beginning of A Complicated Kindness. Left alone with her sad, peculiar father, her days are spent piecing together why her mother and sister have disappeared and contemplating her inevitable career at Happy Family Farms, a chicken slaughterhouse on the outskirts of East Village. Not the East Village in New York City where Nomi would prefer to live, but an oppressive town founded by Mennonites on the cold, flat plains of Manitoba, Canada. This darkly funny novel is the world according to the unforgettable Nomi, a bewildered and wry sixteen-year-old trapped in a town governed by fundamentalist religion and in the shattered remains of a family it destroyed. In Nomi's droll, refreshing voice, we're told the story of an eccentric, loving family that falls apart as each member lands on a collision course with the only community any of them have ever known. A work of fierce humor and tragedy by a writer who has taken the American market by storm, this searing, tender, comic testament to family love will break your heart. "Brilliant." —New York Times Book Review "A darkly funny and provocative novel." —O, the Oprah Magazine

All the Lives We Ever Lived - Katharine Smyth 2020-01-21

A wise, lyrical memoir about the power of literature to help us read our own lives—and see clearly the people we love most. "Transcendent."—The Washington Post • "You'd be hard put to find a more moving appreciation of Woolf's work."—The Wall Street Journal NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY TOWN & COUNTRY Katharine Smyth was a student at Oxford when she first read Virginia Woolf's modernist masterpiece To the Lighthouse in the comfort of an English sitting room, and in the companionable silence she shared with her father. After his death—a calamity that claimed her favorite person—she returned to that beloved novel as a way of wrestling with his memory and understanding her own grief. Smyth's story moves between the New England of her childhood and Woolf's Cornish shores and Bloomsbury squares, exploring universal questions about family, loss, and homecoming. Through her inventive, highly personal reading of To

the Lighthouse, and her artful adaptation of its groundbreaking structure, Smyth guides us toward a new vision of Woolf's most demanding and rewarding novel—and crafts an elegant reminder of literature's ability to clarify and console. Braiding memoir, literary criticism, and biography, *All the Lives We Ever Lived* is a wholly original debut: a love letter from a daughter to her father, and from a reader to her most cherished author. Praise for *All the Lives We Ever Lived* "This searching memoir pays homage to *To the Lighthouse*, while recounting the author's fraught relationship with her beloved father, a vibrant figure afflicted with alcoholism and cancer. . . . Smyth's writing is evocative and incisive."—*The New Yorker* "Like *H Is for Hawk*, Smyth's book is a memoir that's not quite a memoir, using Woolf, and her obsession with Woolf, as a springboard to tell the story of her father's vivid life and sad demise due to alcoholism and cancer. . . . An experiment in twenty-first century introspection that feels rooted in a modernist tradition and bracingly fresh."—*Vogue* "Deeply moving - part memoir, part literary criticism, part outpouring of longing and grief... This is a beautiful book about the wildness of mortal life, and the tenuous consolations of art."—*The Times Literary Supplement* "Blending analysis of a deeply literary novel with a personal story... gently entwining observations from Woolf's classic with her own layered experience. Smyth tells us of her love for her father, his profound alcoholism and the unpredictable course of the cancer that ultimately claimed his life."—*Time*

***A Crooked Tree* - Una Mannion 2021-01-05**

A haunting, suspenseful literary debut that combines a classic coming of age story with a portrait of a fractured American family dealing with the fallout of one summer evening gone terribly wrong. "The night we left Ellen on the road, we drove up the mountain in silence." It is the early 1980s and fifteen-year-old Libby is obsessed with *The Field Guide to the Trees of North America*, a gift her Irish immigrant father gave her before he died. She finds solace in "The Kingdom," a stand of red oak and thick mountain laurel near her home in suburban Pennsylvania, where she can escape from her large and unruly family and share menthol cigarettes and lukewarm beers with her best friend. One night, while driving home,

Libby's mother, exhausted and overwhelmed with the fighting in the backseat, pulls over and orders Libby's little sister Ellen to walk home. What none of this family knows as they drive off leaving a twelve-year-old girl on the side of the road five miles from home with darkness closing in, is what will happen next. *A Crooked Tree* is a surprising, indelible novel, both a poignant portrayal of an unmoored childhood giving way to adolescence, and a gripping tale about the unexpected reverberations of one rash act.

***The Buddha in the Attic* - Julie Otsuka 2011-08-23**

NATIONAL BESTSELLER • National Book Award Finalist • Winner of the PEN/Faulkner Award The acclaimed author of *When the Emperor Was Divine* tells the story of a group of young women brought from Japan to San Francisco as "picture brides" a century ago in this "understated masterpiece ... that unfolds with great emotional power" (*San Francisco Chronicle*). In eight unforgettable sections, *The Buddha in the Attic* traces the extraordinary lives of these women, from their arduous journeys by boat, to their arrival in San Francisco and their tremulous first nights as new wives; from their experiences raising children who would later reject their culture and language, to the deracinating arrival of war. Julie Otsuka has written a spellbinding novel about identity and loyalty, and what it means to be an American in uncertain times. Don't miss Julie Otsuka's new novel, *The Swimmers*, coming in February 2022!

***All My Puny Sorrows* - Miriam Toews 2014-04-15**

Elfrieda, a world-renowned pianist, glamorous, wealthy, happily married: she wants to die. Yolandi, divorced, broke, sleeping with the wrong men as she tries to find true love: she desperately wants to keep her older sister alive. But Elf's latest suicide attempt is a shock: she is three weeks away from the opening of her highly anticipated international tour. Can she be nursed back to "health" in time? Does it matter? As the situation becomes ever more complicated, Yoli faces the most terrifying decision of her life.

***The Last Enchantments* - Charles Finch 2014-01-28**

The Last Enchantments is a powerfully moving and lyrically written novel. A young American embarks on a year at Oxford and has an

impassioned affair that will change his life forever After graduating from Yale, William Baker, scion of an old line patrician family, goes to work in presidential politics. But when the campaign into which he's poured his heart ends in disappointment, he decides to leave New York behind, along with the devoted, ambitious, and well-connected woman he's been in love with for the last four years. Will expects nothing more than a year off before resuming the comfortable life he's always known, but he's soon caught up in a whirlwind of unexpected friendships and romantic entanglements that threaten his safe plans. As he explores the heady social world of Oxford, he becomes fast friends with Tom, his snobbish but affable flat mate; Anil, an Indian economist with a deep love for gangster rap; Anneliese, a German historian obsessed with photography; and Timmo, whose chief ambition is to become a reality television star. What he's least prepared for is Sophie, a witty, beautiful and enigmatic woman who makes him question everything he knows about himself. For readers who made a classic of Richard Yates's *A Good School*, Charles Finch's *The Last Enchantments* is a sweeping novel about love and loss that redefines what it means to grow up as an American in the twenty-first century.

Two at the Top - Uma Krishnaswami 2021-10-01

Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary each tell their story, culminating in their thrilling ascent of Mount Everest. Tenzing Norgay grew up in Nepal, herding yaks in the shadow of Chomolungma, the mountain also known as Everest. He has always dreamed of climbing to the top. He becomes a guide, leading treks through the Himalayas, and finally attempts the highest mountain himself, but doesn't make it. Across the ocean, in New Zealand, Edmund Hillary grew up tending his father's bees. He climbed his first mountain at sixteen and has climbed all over the world ever since. He tries Everest, with no success. In 1953, the two men set out on the same expedition to climb Everest. Their party numbers four hundred, counting all the guides and porters. But the climb is grueling, and eventually Norgay and Hillary are the only two determined to continue. They tramp over windswept glaciers, crawl across rope bridges, hack footholds in the ice ... until finally they reach

the top of the world! This remarkable true adventure story, told in a dual narrative, includes illustrated backmatter rich in geography, history and science. Key Text Features author's note bibliography facts further reading historical context illustrations Correlates to the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.3 With prompting and support, identify characters, settings, and major events in a story. CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.3 Describe characters, settings, and major events in a story, using key details.

All My Puny Sorrows - Miriam Toews 2019-10-15

From the bestselling author of *Women Talking*, a "wrenchingly honest, darkly funny novel" (*Entertainment Weekly*). Elf and Yoli are sisters. While on the surface Elfrieda's life is enviable (she's a world-renowned pianist, glamorous, wealthy, and happily married) and Yolandi's a mess (she's divorced and broke, with two teenagers growing up too quickly), they are fiercely close-raised in a Mennonite household and sharing the hardship of Elf's desire to end her life. After Elf's latest attempt, Yoli must quickly determine how to keep her family from falling apart while facing a profound question: what do you do for a loved one who truly wants to die? *All My Puny Sorrows* is a deeply personal story that is as much comedy as it is tragedy, a goodbye grin from the friend who taught you how to live.

The Last Suspicious Holdout - Ladee Hubbard 2022-03-08

The critically acclaimed author of *The Rib King* returns with an eagerly anticipated collection of interlocking short stories including the title story written exclusively for this volume, that explore relationships between friends, family and strangers in a Black neighborhood over fifteen years The thirteen gripping tales In *The Last Suspicious Holdout*, the new story collection by award-winning author Ladee Hubbard, deftly chronicle poignant moments in the lives of an African American community located in a "sliver of southern suburbia." Spanning from 1992 to 2007, the stories represent a period during which the Black middle-class expanded while stories of "welfare Queens," "crack babies," and "super predators" abounded in the media. In "False Cognates," a formerly incarcerated attorney struggles with raising the tuition to keep

his troubled son in an elite private school. In "There He Go," a young girl whose mother moves constantly clings to a picture of the grandfather she doesn't know but invents stories of his greatness. Characters spotlighted in one story reappear in another, providing a stunning testament to the enduring resilience of Black people as they navigate the "post-racial" period *The Last Suspicious Holdout* so vividly portrays.

Stories in the Sky: Constellations - Kyle Brach 2022-03-15

Spark our littlest learners' interest in the night sky! The stars in the sky help scientists, and also point the way. Certain groups of stars tell a story, or tell us the month and day. For thousands of years, the stars have filled humankind with wonder. They have pointed the way, helped us tell time, and best of all, told us stories. Now, curious kids can explore the night sky with *Stories in the Sky: Constellations*. From Ursa Major and Ursa Minor, Leo the Lion, Orion the Hunter, and more, ten of the most popular and easiest-to-find constellations in the night sky are featured with beautiful illustrations that show the stars in the constellation as well as a cute rendering of the animal or person it represents. The fun, rhyming text introduces the ancient Greek or Roman character most often associated with the constellation, and the fun facts on each spread include basic information about where and when to find each of them.

Death and Mr. Pickwick - Stephen Jarvis 2015-06-23

Death and Mr. Pickwick is a vast, richly imagined, Dickensian work about the rough-and-tumble world that produced an author who defined an age. Like Charles Dickens did in his immortal novels, Stephen Jarvis has spun a tale full of preposterous characters, shaggy-dog stories, improbable reversals, skulduggery, betrayal, and valor-all true, and all brilliantly brought to life in his unputdownable book. The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club, featuring the fat and lovable Mr. Pickwick and his Cockney manservant, Sam Weller, began as a series of whimsical sketches, the brainchild of the brilliant, erratic, misanthropic illustrator named Robert Seymour, a denizen of the back alleys and grimy courtyards where early nineteenth-century London's printers and booksellers plied their cutthroat trade. When Seymour's publishers, after

trying to match his magical etchings with a number of writers, settled on a young storyteller using the pen name Boz, *The Pickwick Papers* went on to become a worldwide phenomenon, outselling every other book besides the Bible and Shakespeare's plays. And Boz, as the young Charles Dickens signed his work, became, in the eyes of many, the most important writer of his time. The fate of Robert Seymour, Mr. Pickwick's creator, a very different story-one untold before now. Few novels deserve to be called magnificent. *Death and Mr. Pickwick* is one of them.

The Betrayers - David Bezmozgis 2014-09-23

Winner of the National Jewish Book Award A Wall Street Journal Best Book of 2014 A New Yorker Favorite Book of 2014 New York Times Book Review Editor's Choice These incandescent pages give us one fraught, momentous day in the life of Baruch Kotler, a Soviet Jewish dissident who now finds himself a disgraced Israeli politician. When he refuses to back down from a contrary but principled stand regarding the settlements in the West Bank, his political opponents expose his affair with a mistress decades his junior, and the besieged couple escapes to Yalta, the faded Crimean resort of Kotler's youth. There, shockingly, Kotler encounters the former friend whose denunciation sent him to the Gulag almost forty years earlier. In a whirling twenty-four hours, Kotler must face the ultimate reckoning, both with those who have betrayed him and with those whom he has betrayed, including a teenage daughter, a son facing his own moral dilemma in the Israeli army, and the wife who once campaigned to secure his freedom and stood by him through so much. Stubborn, wry, and self-knowing, Baruch Kotler is one of the great creations of contemporary fiction. An aging man grasping at a final passion, he is drawn inexorably into a crucible that is both personal and biblical in scope. In prose that is elegant, sly, precise, and devastating in its awareness of the human heart, David Bezmozgis has rendered a story for the ages, an inquest into the nature of fate and consequence, love and forgiveness. *The Betrayers* is a high-wire act, a powerful tale of morality and sacrifice that will haunt readers long after they turn the final page.

Sisterland - Curtis Sittenfeld 2014-05-06

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER NAMED ONE OF THE BEST NOVELS

OF THE YEAR BY Slate • Daily Candy • St. Louis Post-Dispatch • The Guardian (U.K.) “Novelists get called master storytellers all the time, but Sittenfeld really is one. . . . What might be most strikingly excellent about *Sisterland* is the way Sittenfeld depicts domesticity and motherhood.”—Maggie Shipstead, *The Washington Post* “Psychologically vivid . . . *Sisterland* is a testament to [Curtis Sittenfeld’s] growing depth and assurance as a writer.”—Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times* “[Sittenfeld’s] gifts are in full effect with this novel, and she uses them to create a genuinely engrossing sense of uncertainty and suspense.”—Sloane Crosley, NPR’s *All Things Considered*

Curtis Sittenfeld, author of *American Wife* and *Prep*, returns with a mesmerizing novel of family and identity, loyalty and deception, and the delicate line between truth and belief. From an early age, Kate and her identical twin sister, Violet, knew that they were unlike everyone else. Kate and Vi were born with peculiar “senses”—innate psychic abilities concerning future events and other people’s secrets. Though Vi embraced her visions, Kate did her best to hide them. Now, years later, their different paths have led them both back to their hometown of St. Louis. Vi has pursued an eccentric career as a psychic medium, while Kate, a devoted wife and mother, has settled down in the suburbs to raise her two young children. But when a minor earthquake hits in the middle of the night, the normal life Kate has always wished for begins to shift. After Vi goes on television to share a premonition that another, more devastating earthquake will soon hit the St. Louis area, Kate is mortified. Equally troubling, however, is her fear that Vi may be right. As the date of the predicted earthquake quickly approaches, Kate is forced to reconcile her fraught relationship with her sister and to face truths about herself she’s long tried to deny. Funny, haunting, and thought-provoking, *Sisterland* is a beautifully written novel of the obligation we have toward others, and the responsibility we take for ourselves. With her deep empathy, keen wisdom, and unerring talent for finding the extraordinary moments in our everyday lives, Curtis Sittenfeld is one of the most exceptional voices in literary fiction today. Praise for *Sisterland* “What’s most captivating about *Sisterland* is the intimate, intense

portrayal of identical twin sisters. . . . [The novel] unfolds like a good prophecy—inevitable and shocking.”—*San Francisco Chronicle* “The accomplished Sittenfeld . . . is as skillful as ever at developing an intriguing premise and likable characters. . . . Sittenfeld’s affectionate take on sibling rivalry is spot-on.”—*People* “The power of [Sittenfeld’s] writing and the force of her vision challenge the notion that great fiction must be hard to read. She is a master of dramatic irony, creating fully realized social worlds before laying waste to her heroines’ understanding of them. . . . Her prose [is] a rich delight.”—*The Boston Globe* “Wise and often wickedly entertaining . . . Readers who have siblings—especially women with sisters—will likely come away feeling as if the author really is psychic.”—*USA Today*

A Matter of Death and Life - Irvin D. Yalom 2021-03-02

A year-long journey by the renowned psychiatrist and his writer wife after her terminal diagnosis, as they reflect on how to love and live without regret. Internationally acclaimed psychiatrist and author Irvin Yalom devoted his career to counseling those suffering from anxiety and grief. But never had he faced the need to counsel himself until his wife, esteemed feminist author Marilyn Yalom, was diagnosed with cancer. In *A Matter of Death and Life*, Marilyn and Irv share how they took on profound new struggles: Marilyn to die a good death, Irv to live on without her. In alternating accounts of their last months together and Irv’s first months alone, they offer us a rare window into facing mortality and coping with the loss of one’s beloved. The Yaloms had numerous blessings—a loving family, a Palo Alto home under a magnificent valley oak, a large circle of friends, avid readers around the world, and a long, fulfilling marriage—but they faced death as we all do. With the wisdom of those who have thought deeply, and the familiar warmth of teenage sweethearts who’ve grown up together, they investigate universal questions of intimacy, love, and grief. Informed by two lifetimes of experience, *A Matter of Death and Life* is an openhearted offering to anyone seeking support, solace, and a meaningful life.

His Favorites - Kate Walbert 2019-06-11

A “tense, taut, and thrilling” (*Marie Claire*) novel about a teenage girl, a

predatory teacher, and a school's complicity from the highly acclaimed, bestselling National Book Award finalist and author of *A Short History of Women*—"riveting, terrifying, exactly the book for our times" (Ann Patchett). They were on a lark, three teenaged girls speeding across the greens at night on a "borrowed" golf cart, drunk. The cart crashes and one of the girls lands violently in the rough, killed instantly. The driver, Jo, flees the hometown that has turned against her and enrolls at a prestigious boarding school. Her past weighs on her. She is responsible for the death of her best friend. She has tipped her parents' rocky marriage into demise. She is ready to begin again, far away from the accident. "Devastatingly relevant" (Vogue) and "fueled by gorgeous writing" (NPR), *His Favorites* reveals the interior life of a young woman determined to navigate the treachery in a new world. Told from her perspective many years later, the story coolly describes a series of shattering events and a school that failed to protect her. "Before things turn treacherous, there's a moment when predation can feel dangerously like kindness...Walbert understands this...His Favorites begs to be read" (Time).

Summer of My Amazing Luck - Miriam Toews 2010-01-08

A Novel by the Governor General's Literary Award—winning author of *A Complicated Kindness* Lucy Van Alstyne always thought she'd grow up to become a forest ranger. Instead, at the age of eighteen, she's found herself with quite a different job title: Single Mother on the Dole. As for the father of her nine-month-old son, Dillinger, well...it could be any of number of guys. At the Have-a-Life housing project—aptly nicknamed Half-a-Life by those who call it home—Lucy meets Lish, a zany and exuberant woman whose idea of fashion is a black beret with a big silver spider brooch stuck on it. Lish is the mother of four daughters, two by a man on welfare himself and twins from a one-week stand with a fire-eating busker who stole her heart—and her wallet. Living on the dole isn't a walk in the park for Lucy and Lish. Dinner almost always consists of noodles. Transportation means pushing a crappy stroller through the rain. Then there are the condescending welfare agents with their dreaded surprise inspections. And just across the street is Serenity Place,

another housing project with which Half-a-Life is engaged in a full-on feud. When the women aren't busy snitching on each other, they're spreading rumours—or plotting elaborate acts of revenge. In the middle of a mosquito-infested rainy season, Lish and Lucy decide to escape the craziness of Half-A-Life by taking to the road. In a van held together with coat-hangers and electrical tape and crammed to the hilt with kids and toys, they set off to Colorado in search Lish's lost love and the father of her twins. Whether they'll find him is questionable, but the down-and-out adventure helps Lucy realize that this just may be the summer of her amazing luck. Miriam Toews's debut novel, *Summer of My Amazing Luck* opens our eyes to a social class rarely captured in fiction. At once hilarious and heartbreaking, it is inhabited by an unforgettable and poignant group of characters. Shortlisted for both the McNally Robinson Book of the Year Award and for the Stephen Leacock Memorial Medal for Humour, it also earned Miriam the John Hirsch Award for the Most Promising Manitoba Writer.

[All My Puny Sorrows](#) - Miriam Toews 2014-04-11

SHORTLISTED 2014 - Scotiabank Giller Prize Miriam Toews is beloved for her irresistible voice, for mingling laughter and heartwrenching poignancy like no other writer. In her most passionate novel yet, she brings us the riveting story of two sisters, and a love that illuminates life. You won't forget Elf and Yoli, two smart and loving sisters. Elfrieda, a world-renowned pianist, glamorous, wealthy, happily married: she wants to die. Yolandi, divorced, broke, sleeping with the wrong men as she tries to find true love: she desperately wants to keep her older sister alive. Yoli is a beguiling mess, wickedly funny even as she stumbles through life struggling to keep her teenage kids and mother happy, her exes from hating her, her sister from killing herself and her own heart from breaking. But Elf's latest suicide attempt is a shock: she is three weeks away from the opening of her highly anticipated international tour. Her long-time agent has been calling and neither Yoli nor Elf's loving husband knows what to tell him. Can she be nursed back to "health" in time? Does it matter? As the situation becomes ever more complicated, Yoli faces the most terrifying decision of her life. *All My Puny Sorrows*, at

once tender and unquiet, offers a profound reflection on the limits of love, and the sometimes unimaginable challenges we experience when childhood becomes a new country of adult commitments and responsibilities. In her beautifully rendered new novel, Miriam Toews gives us a startling demonstration of how to carry on with hope and love and the business of living even when grief loads the heart.

Moving Target - Richard Gray 2017-08-10

This collection is the definitive analysis of the Emerald Archer, from his Golden Age origins to his small screen adventures and beyond. Exploring overlooked chapters of Green Arrow's life, and those of alter ego Oliver Queen, this book shows that Green Arrow has never been just one thing, but rather a perpetually moving target. Includes new interviews with Green Arrow creators from across the decades, including Neal Adams, Mike Grell, Chuck Dixon, Phil Hester, Brad Meltzer, and Jeff Lemire.

Fight Night - Miriam Toews 2021-10-05

"Move over, Scout Finch! There's a new contender for feistiest girl in fiction, and her name is Swiv." -USA Today, "Best Books of the Year"
"Toews is a master of dialogue." -New York Times Book Review, Editors' Choice "A revelation." -Richard Russo NPR Best Books of the Year * Shortlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize * Writers' Trust Fiction Prize Finalist * Indie Next Pick * Amazon Editors' Pick * Apple Book of the Month From the bestselling author of *Women Talking* and *All My Puny Sorrows*, a compassionate, darkly humorous, and deeply wise novel about three generations of women. "You're a small thing," Grandma writes, "and you must learn to fight." Swiv's Grandma, Elvira, has been fighting all her life. From her upbringing in a strict religious community, she has fought those who wanted to take away her joy, her independence, and her spirit. She has fought to make peace with her loved ones when they have chosen to leave her. And now, even as her health fails, Grandma is fighting for her family: for her daughter, partnerless and in the third term of a pregnancy; and for her granddaughter Swiv, a spirited nine-year-old who has been suspended from school. Cramped together in their Toronto home, on the precipice of extraordinary change, Grandma and Swiv undertake a vital new

project, setting out to explain their lives in letters they will never send. Alternating between the exuberant, precocious voice of young Swiv and her irrepressible, tenacious Grandma, *Fight Night* is a love letter to mothers and grandmothers, and to all the women who are still fighting—painfully, ferociously—for a way to live on their own terms.

Gold - Chris Cleave 2012-07-03

Building on the tradition of *Little Bee*, Chris Cleave again writes with elegance, humor, and passion about friendship, marriage, parenthood, tragedy, and redemption. What would you sacrifice for the people you love? KATE AND ZOE met at nineteen when they both made the cut for the national training program in track cycling—a sport that demands intense focus, blinding exertion, and unwavering commitment. They are built to exploit the barest physical and psychological edge over equally skilled rivals, all of whom are fighting for the last one tenth of a second that separates triumph from despair. Now at thirty-two, the women are facing their last and biggest race: the 2012 Olympics. Each wants desperately to win gold, and each has more than a medal to lose. Kate is the more naturally gifted, but the demands of her life have a tendency to slow her down. Her eight-year-old daughter Sophie dreams of the Death Star and of battling alongside the Rebels as evil white blood cells ravage her personal galaxy—she is fighting a recurrence of the leukemia that nearly killed her three years ago. Sophie doesn't want to stand in the way of her mum's Olympic dreams, but each day the dark forces of the universe seem to be massing against her. Devoted and self-sacrificing Kate knows her daughter is fragile, but at the height of her last frenzied months of training, might she be blind to the most terrible prognosis? Intense, aloof Zoe has always hovered on the periphery of real human companionship, and her compulsive need to win at any cost has more than once threatened her friendship with Kate—and her own sanity. Will she allow her obsession, and the advantage she has over a harried, anguished mother, to sever the bond they have shared for more than a decade? Echoing the adrenaline-fueled rush of a race around the Velodrome track, *Gold* is a triumph of superbly paced, heart-in-throat storytelling. With great humanity and glorious prose, Chris Cleave

examines the values that lie at the heart of our most intimate relationships, and the choices we make when lives are at stake and everything is on the line.

Irma Voth - Miriam Toews 2011-09-06

"The nicely drawn contrast between what Irma knows and suspects and what the reader understands about her world gives Irma Voth a suspenseful charge from the first pages." —Jane Smiley, Globe and Mail (Toronto) In a rare coming-of-age novel that blends dark truths with uplifting transformations, acclaimed author Miriam Toews delivers the story of a young Mennonite woman, vulnerable yet wise beyond her years, who carries the burden of a terrible family secret with her during a remarkable journey of survival and redemption. Irma Voth, from the award-winning author of *Swing Low* and *A Complicated Kindness*, is a poignant and elegant exploration of one woman's difficult odyssey to discover her own potential—a path that leads her away from her close-knit community and into the wide and unknown world beyond.

Dept. of Speculation - Jenny Offill 2014-01-28

From the acclaimed author of *Weather* comes a slim, stunning portrait of a marriage—a beguiling rumination on the mysteries of intimacy, trust, faith, knowledge, and the condition of universal shipwreck that unites us all. ONE OF THE 10 BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR - THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW A Best Book of the Year: The New Yorker, The Boston Globe, Minneapolis Star Tribune, Vogue.com, Electric Literature, BuzzFeed In the beginning, it was easy to imagine their future. They were young and giddy, sure of themselves and of their love for each other. "Dept. of Speculation" was their code name for all the thrilling uncertainties that lay ahead. Then they got married, had a child and navigated the familiar calamities of family life—a colicky baby, a faltering relationship, stalled ambitions. When their marriage reaches a sudden breaking point, the wife tries to retrace the steps that have led them to this place, invoking everything from Kafka to the Stoics to doomed Russian cosmonauts as she analyzes what is lost and what remains. In language that shimmers with rage and longing and wit, Offill has created a brilliantly suspenseful love story—a novel to read in one sitting, even as

its piercing meditations linger long after the last page.

Seven Days of Us - Francesca Hornak 2018-10-16

A family can't escape their secrets when they're forced to spend a week in quarantine in this "sharply funny" (People) novel—an Indie Next and #1 Library Reads Pick! It's Christmas, and for the first time in years the entire Birch family will be under one roof. Even Emma and Andrew's elder daughter—who is usually off saving the world—will be joining them at Weyfield Hall. But Olivia, a doctor, is only coming home because she has to. She's just returned from treating an epidemic abroad and has been told she must stay in quarantine for a week...and so too should her family. For the next seven days, the Birches are locked down, cut off from the rest of humanity, and forced into each other's orbits. Younger, unabashedly frivolous daughter Phoebe is fixated on her upcoming wedding, while Olivia deals with the culture shock of first-world problems. As Andrew sequesters himself in his study writing scathing restaurant reviews and remembering his glory days as a war correspondent, Emma hides a secret that will turn the whole family upside down. In close proximity, not much can stay hidden for long, and as revelations and long-held tensions come to light, nothing is more shocking than the unexpected guest who's about to arrive....

[Nobody Is Ever Missing](#) - Catherine Lacey 2014-07-08

Without telling her family, Elyria takes a one-way flight to New Zealand, abruptly leaving her stable but unfulfilling life in Manhattan. As her husband scrambles to figure out what happened to her, Elyria hurtles into the unknown, testing fate by hitchhiking, tacitly being swept into the lives of strangers, and sleeping in fields, forests, and public parks. Her risky and often surreal encounters with the people and wildlife of New Zealand propel Elyria deeper into her deteriorating mind. Haunted by her sister's death and consumed by an inner violence, her growing rage remains so expertly concealed that those who meet her sense nothing unwell. This discord between her inner and outer reality leads her to another obsession: If her truest self is invisible and unknowable to others, is she even alive? The risks Elyria takes on her journey are paralleled by the risks Catherine Lacey takes on the page. In urgent,

spiraling prose she whittles away at the rage within Elyria and exposes the very real, very knowable anxiety of the human condition. And yet somehow Lacey manages to poke fun at her unrelenting self-consciousness, her high-stakes search for the dark heart of the self. In the spirit of Haruki Murakami and Amelia Gray, *Nobody Is Ever Missing* is full of mordant humor and uncanny insights, as Elyria waffles between obsession and numbness in the face of love, loss, danger, and self-knowledge.

Small Hours - Jennifer Kitses 2017-06-13

Richard Russo meets Tom Perrotta in this gripping, suspenseful, and gorgeous debut novel about family secrets come to light; "a tinderbox waiting to explode" (Matthew Thomas, *New York Times* Bestselling author of *We Are Not Ourselves*). On a day of rising tension, Tom, a news editor, will confront the consequences of an indiscretion that he has tried desperately to hide and that now threatens to undo his family. Helen, a graphic designer who works from home, will be drawn into an escalating conflict with two street-smart teenage girls. Told hour-by-hour over the course of a single day, a husband and wife try to outrun long-buried secrets, sending their lives into chaos.

[American Woman](#) - Susan Choi 2014-07-08

"Susan Choi...proves herself a natural—a writer whose intelligence and historical awareness effortlessly serve a breathtaking narrative ability. I couldn't put *American Woman* down, and wanted when I finished it to do nothing but read it again." —Joan Didion A novel of impressive scope and complexity, "*American Woman* is a thoughtful, meditative interrogation of...history and politics, of power and racism, and finally, of radicalism." (*San Francisco Chronicle*), perfect for readers who love Emma Cline's novel, *The Girls*. On the lam for an act of violence against the American government, 25-year-old Jenny Shimada agrees to care for three younger fugitives whom a shadowy figure from her former radical life has spirited out of California. One of them, the kidnapped granddaughter of a wealthy newspaper magnate in San Francisco, has become a national celebrity for embracing her captors' ideology and joining their revolutionary cell. "A brilliant read...astonishing in its honesty and confidence," (Denver

Post) *American Woman* explores the psychology of the young radicals, the intensity of their isolated existence, and the paranoia and fear that undermine their ideals.

[Reading Group Choices](#) - Reading Group Choices 2008

[Women Talking](#) - Miriam Toews 2019-04-02

Now a Major Motion Picture from Director Sarah Polley, starring Rooney Mara, Claire Foy, and Jessie Buckley, with Ben Wishaw and Frances McDormand. INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER "This amazing, sad, shocking, but touching novel, based on a real-life event, could be right out of *The Handmaid's Tale*." -Margaret Atwood, on Twitter "Scorching . . . a wry, freewheeling novel of ideas that touches on the nature of evil, questions of free will, collective responsibility, cultural determinism, and, above all, forgiveness." -*New York Times* Book Review, Editors' Choice One evening, eight Mennonite women climb into a hay loft to conduct a secret meeting. For the past two years, each of these women, and more than a hundred other girls in their colony, has been repeatedly violated in the night by demons coming to punish them for their sins. Now that the women have learned they were in fact drugged and attacked by a group of men from their own community, they are determined to protect themselves and their daughters from future harm. While the men of the colony are off in the city, attempting to raise enough money to bail out the rapists and bring them home, these women—all illiterate, without any knowledge of the world outside their community and unable even to speak the language of the country they live in—have very little time to make a choice: Should they stay in the only world they've ever known or should they dare to escape? Based on real events and told through the "minutes" of the women's all-female symposium, Toews's masterful novel uses wry, politically engaged humor to relate this tale of women claiming their own power to decide.

[Swing Low](#) - Miriam Toews 2001

Recounts the story of Mel Toews, a devoted husband and father, a popular schoolteacher, and faithful member of the Mennonite church who could no longer deal with the pain and darkness of manic

depression.

Coffee Spills & Songs - Berendsje Westra 2021-07

Meet Carys Wynne: a lonely, stubborn flight attendant with a dysfunctional family. As she approaches her milestone thirtieth birthday, she wants to sort out her life. For a long time, she struggled to deal with her troubled past, but her therapist has called her pro-active and Carys feels she's finally taking steps in the right direction. She's hoping for a future with Ryan, a guy she met online, who keeps asking her out. And there is also Patsy: the person who was part of her mother's secret and whom she blames for her sister's fate. Carys is convinced that confronting Patsy with their past will help her move on. But when Carys unexpectedly finds herself alone on the streets of Manhattan and meets a strange couple, her thinking begins to crystallise. Surely there is more than one path leading to love and closure? *Coffee Spills & Songs* is a relational drama and a coming-of-age story that is set in London, Singapore, and New York in the year 2010. It's the first novel in the Carys Wynne women's fiction trilogy. 'Great emotive writing and a real page-turner!' Ester Thwaite, librarian 'Berendsje Westra writes with an in-depth knowledge of the day-to-day professional and emotional life of Carys, a disaffected air stewardess as she considers her lot in the run-up to her thirtieth birthday. This first-person narrative is raw, honest and poignant, and skilfully takes the reader on a physical and emotional journey with Carys, over time and distance, as she seeks self-knowledge.' Jane Fraser, author of *Advent*

Dinner with the Schnabels - Toni Jordan 2022-03-30

'I loved every page of this funny, warm, delightful novel!' LIANE MORIARTY 'A smart, funny novel about love, marriage and family.' Weekend Australian 'With sharply observed characters and comic set-pieces to make you laugh out loud, *Dinner with the Schnabels* is great fun to read and casts a more mature and acerbic eye on modern masculinity.' Sydney Morning Herald, Fiction Pick of the Week You can marry into them, but can you ever really be one of them? A novel about marriage, love and family. Things haven't gone well for Simon Larsen lately. He adores his wife, Tansy, and his children, but since his business

failed and he lost the family home, he can't seem to get off the couch. His larger-than-life in-laws, the Schnabels - Tansy's mother, sister and brother - won't get off his case. To keep everyone happy, Simon needs to do one little job: he has a week to landscape a friend's backyard for an important Schnabel family event. But as the week progresses, Simon is derailed by the arrival of an unexpected house guest. Then he discovers Tansy is harbouring a secret. As his world spins out of control, who can Simon really count on when the chips are down? Life with the Schnabels is messy, chaotic and joyful, and Dinner with the Schnabels is as heartwarming as it is outrageously funny. Praise for *Dinner with the Schnabels*: 'Laughs all the way . . . a charmer of a book.' Daily Telegraph 'Dinner with the Schnabels is a contemporary comic masterpiece. Practically every page boasts lines redolent of humour, wit and sarcasm that will make you snigger if not laugh out loud.' ArtsHub 'Hilarious.' The Bookshelf (ABC Radio) 'Told with great humour and pathos. It is a tonic and a delight.' PIP WILLIAMS, author of *The Dictionary of Lost Words* 'Just delightful . . . a modern comedy of manners that pokes affectionate fun at contemporary Australia - all with Toni's trademark warmth, sensitivity and tenderness. I am pressing it into the hands of everyone I know.' KATE FORSYTH 'Toni Jordan at her finest - brilliantly observed and highly entertaining. I inhaled her words then snorted them out laughing!' JOANNA NELL 'Smart, tender, wise and hilarious. This is a dinner I didn't want to leave.' KATHRYN HEYMAN 'A modern Melbourne Oscar Wilde comedy of family conundrums, perfect for David Nicholls and Beth O'Leary fans!' DANIELLE BINKS 'As heartwarming as it is outrageously funny.' Herald Sun 'A sparkling, clever novel . . . Toni Jordan is at her best here, rivalling Liane Moriarty (a fan) with her comic skewering of social mores, pacy plot, sharp characterisations and sly questioning of contemporary values' In Daily 'The only criticism I could possibly level at this novel is that it was near-impossible to put down . . . *Dinner with the Schnabels* is a 5-star read for sure. Run, don't walk.' The AU Review 'This delicious story about family will be Jordan's most-loved novel yet . . . *Dinner with the Schnabels* just makes my life feel easier - it makes me feel seen.' Readings 'Once again proving why Jordan is one of

this country's most exceptional writers.' Better Reading Praise for Toni Jordan: 'Laugh-out-loud funny.' The Australian Women's Weekly 'Crisp and clever.' Saturday Paper 'A moving comedy.' Who Weekly 'An emotionally rich domestic drama.' The Australian 'Pitch-perfect blend of intelligence, compassion and humour.' The Guardian

We Want What We Want - Alix Ohlin 2021-07-27

An Esquire Best Book of Summer • A collection of glittering, surprising, darkly funny stories of people testing the boundaries of their lives—from the award-winning author of *Dual Citizens*, who is "spoken of in the same reverent breath as Lorrie Moore and Joy Williams" (Heidi Julavits, author of *The Folded Clock*). In the mordantly funny "Money, Geography, Youth," Vanessa arrives home from a gap year volunteering in Ghana to find that her father is engaged to her childhood best friend. Unable to reconcile the girl she went to dances with in the eighth grade and the

woman in her father's bed, Vanessa turns to a different old friendship for her own, unique diversion. In the subversive "The Brooks Brothers Guru," Amanda drives to upstate New York to rescue her gawky cousin from a cult, only to discover clean-cut, well-dressed men living in a beautiful home, discussing the classics, and drinking sophisticated cocktails, moving her to wonder what freedoms she might willingly trade away for a life of such elegant comfort. And in "The Universal Particular," Tamar welcomes her husband's young stepcousin into their home, imagining they are saving this young woman from Somalia by way of Stockholm, only to find their cool suburban life of potlucks and air-conditioning knocked askew in ways they cannot quite understand. Populated with imperfect families, burned potential, and inescapable old flames, the thirteen stories in *We Want What We Want* are, each one, diamond-sharp—sparkling with pain, humor, and beauty.