



# Book Notes

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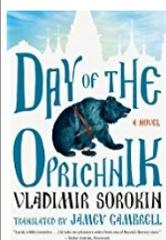
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July/August  
2017

## Contemporary Russia in Fiction and Nonfiction

Twenty-five years after the collapse of the Soviet Union, Western readers still often associate Russian Literature with Leo Tolstoy, Fyodor Dostoevsky, Anton Chekhov, Mikhail Bulgakov, and Boris Pasternak, whose literary works top the 100 must-read lists.

Listed here are some of Russia's most prominent contemporary literary voices, as well as some nonfiction selections that help elucidate the Russia of today.



**Day of the Oprichnik** (FIC SOR) by Vladimir Sorokin - Vladimir Sorokin is one of Russia's greatest writers, and this novel is one of his best. *Day of the Oprichnik* is a haunting and terrifying vision of modern Russia projected two decades into the future. Anyone who wants to learn more about Russia and what could be the outcome of [Vladimir] Putin's rule should read the book. It's dark and dystopian, but it's a part of our life.



**The Big Green Tent** (FIC ULI) by Ludmila Ulitskaya - For Western readers, the novel's sparkling imagery makes real the drab and dangerous Soviet era, with its scarcities and constant presence of the KGB. The characters are drawn with humor and melancholy yet endowed with hope and a love of literature. A great introduction for readers new to Ulitskaya.



**Secondhand Time** (947.086 ALE) by Svetlana Alexievich - Alexievich chronicles the demise of communism. Everyday Russian citizens recount the past thirty years, showing us what life was like during the fall of the Soviet Union and what it's like to live in the new Russia left in its wake. Through interviews spanning 1991 to 2012, Alexievich takes

us behind the propaganda and contrived media accounts, giving us a panoramic portrait of contemporary Russia and Russians who still carry memories of oppression, terror, famine, massacres—but also of pride in their country, hope for the future, and a belief that everyone was working and fighting together to bring about a utopia. Here is an account of life in the aftermath of an idea so powerful it once dominated a third of the world.

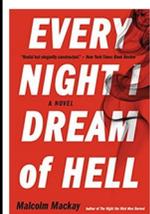
## For Lovers of Whodunits Here are some hair-raising whodunits that are worthy of being on the top place on your summer reading list.



**Magpie Murders** (MYS HOR) by Anthony Horowitz - This fiendishly brilliant, riveting thriller weaves a classic whodunit worthy of Agatha Christie into a chilling, ingeniously original modern-day mystery. It is a funhouse mirror of a novel that sets a vintage 'cozy' mystery inside a modern frame.



**Midnight at the Bright Ideas Bookstore** (MYS SUL) by Matthew Sullivan - When a bookshop patron commits suicide, his favorite store clerk must unravel the puzzle he left behind in this fiendishly clever debut novel from an award-winning short story writer. Bedazzling, addictive, and wildly clever, *Midnight at the Bright Ideas Bookstore* is a heart-pounding mystery that perfectly captures the intellect and eccentricity of the bookstore milieu and will keep you guessing until the very last page.



**Every Night I Dream of Hell** (MYS MAC) by Malcolm Mackay - This latest book by Mackay is a worthy addition not only to Mackay's series of Glasgow-based novels and also to the genre of "tartan noir," a form of crime fiction unique to Scottish writers. Readers looking for a hard-boiled, life-of-crime story with plenty of juice will no doubt enjoy Mackay's latest novel as well as his earlier

works.



**Fallout: A V.I. Warshawski Novel** (MYS PAR) by Sara Paretsky - Even out of her Chicago comfort zone in pursuit of a faded missing actress and a young filmmaker in *Fallout*, legendary V.I. Warshawski is as dogged and ferocious as ever. *Fallout* is the best yet in one of our genre's crucial, solid-gold, best-ever series. No other crime

writer has so powerfully and effectively combined a well-crafted detective story with the novel of social realism.



## Adult Summer Reading Program

Help build a "Better World" by reading all summer long. Pick up a bingo card and complete five tasks to receive a raffle ticket that will be entered in the drawing at the end of the program for gift cards to local merchants. For more tickets, continue to read and complete more activities. The program runs through August 31, for those ages 16 and older.

Sign up and receive a coloring journal. The program, prizes and journals are provided by the Friends of the Hershey Public Library.

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## Fall Adult Enrichment Classes

Check out the library's website on August 21 or stop by the library for a complete list of the Fall Adult Enrichment classes beginning as early as September 10.

Registration for all of the classes must be done at the library.

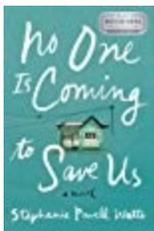
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## Staff Picks

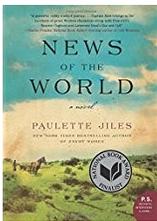
Don't miss the library's **2017 Staff Picks**. Stop by to pick up your brochure to help add to your summer reading "bucket list."

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## Top Picks for Book Groups



**No One is Coming to Save Us** (FIC WAT) by Stephanie Powell Watts - A grand debut novel full of characters who come into a reader's mind and heart and never leave. Stephanie Powell Watts is a writer of wondrous skill, imagination and sensitivity, and *No One Is Coming to Save Us* is a beautiful testament to that. The story is rich with wry and poignant observations on human nature, family, and black experience in America.



**News of the World** (FIC JIL) by Paulette Jiles - A beautifully rendered tale of the Old West that focuses on Johanna Leonberger, a 10-year-old who's been taken captive by Kiowa raiders. Captain Jefferson Kyle Kidd—a 70-year old war veteran—comes to take her to live with relatives near San Antonio, Texas. Their journey home makes for remarkable reading. This is a must-read for lovers of historical fiction.

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## Coming Soon to a Theater Near You

**The Dark Tower** - based on the novels by Stephen King.  
(August)

**The Glass Castle** - based on the memoir by Jeannette Walls.  
(August)

**Victoria and Abdul** - based on the novel by Sharbani Basu.  
(September)

**Don't Miss this Great Program Sponsored by Friends on Sunday, July 16 @ 2:00 p.m.**

## "Tommy and Me" presented by Ray Didinger

Come and hear the story of a longtime friendship that began in 1957, as Ray Didinger speaks about his experiences with Eagles great Tommy McDonald that began in Hershey at the Eagles training camp. As a 10-year-old boy coming to the Eagles training camp in Hershey, Ray developed a friendship with Tommy McDonald, the Eagles star receiver. What began as a star-struck youngster carrying his hero's football helmet grew years later into Ray, as an award-winning sports writer, campaigning to get Tommy into the Pro Football Hall of Fame

The program is free but registration is necessary and can be done either online @ [www.hersheylibrary.org](http://www.hersheylibrary.org) or by calling the Circulation Desk @ 533-6555.

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## A Taste of Summer

**There's no better way to spend a lazy summer afternoon than dipping into the pages of a good book. Here are two light-hearted titles that are just right for poolside perusal.**



**Sweet Spot: An Ice Cream Binge Across America** (FIC ETT) by Amy Ettinger - For Amy Ettinger, ice cream is not just a delicious snack but a circumstance and a time of year—frozen forever in memory. As the youngest child and only girl, ice cream embodied unstructured summers, freedom from the tyranny of her classmates, and a

comforting escape from her chaotic, demanding family. *Sweet Spot* is a fun and spirited exploration of a treat Americans can't get enough of—one that transports us back to our childhoods and will have you walking to the nearest shop for a cone.



**I Need a Lifeguard Everywhere But the Pool** (FIC SCO) by Lisa Scottoline and Francesca Serritella - The bestselling and "perennially hilarious" mother-daughter team is back with a new collection of stories from their real lives, guaranteed to make you laugh out loud. Join Lisa and Francesca as they regret drunk-shopping online, try smell-dating, and explore the freedom

of a hiatus from men - a Guyatus. They offer a fresh and funny take on the triumphs and trying moments of modern life, showing that when it comes to navigating the crazy world we live in, you're always your own best lifeguard.