
STAFF PICKS



A gift from us to you!

Compiled May 2018

When I got [my] library card, that was when my life began.”

— [Rita Mae Brown](#)

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“Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counselors, and the most patient of teachers.”
 — [Charles William Eliot](#)

The staff at the Hershey Public Library would like to share with you some of the wonderful books we've been reading this past year.

Enjoy!

Key:

LP (Large Print) B (Biography)

cd (audio book on cd) Pb (paperback)

dmd (playaway) GN (graphic novel)

☉ (Debut-new author's first book)

*Book suggested for book groups

() Numbers shown at the end of book summaries in parenthesis are the number of Staff members who have recommended the book.



Books in a Series

What are books in a series?

A book series is a sequence of books having certain characteristics in common that are formally identified together as a group. Book series can be organized in different ways, such as written by the same author, or marketed as a group by their publisher.

Again this year we are adding to our **Staff Pick** brochure book series that have been recommended by our staff members. If you are not sure what the order of books are in a series, visit <http://ww2.kdl.org/libcat/whatsnext.asp> for a complete list of almost all authors.

Books In a Series Recommended by the Staff:

The Girl in the Castle by Santa Montefiore (#1 Deverill Chronicles) - Ireland. The early twentieth century. A powerful story of love, loyalty, and friendship, *The Girl in the Castle* is an exquisitely written novel set against the magical, captivating landscape of Ireland. Fans of Kate Morton and *Downton Abbey* will love it.

The Daughters of Ireland by Santa Montefiore (#2 Deverill Chronicles) - The story begins in 1925, long after the Anglo-Irish war is over. The war damaged Castle Deverill, in West Cork, Ireland. The home to the Deverills for hundreds of years is put up for sale. Celia (Deverill) Mayberry and her husband buy the estate and plan on repairing it.

The Last Secret of the Deverills by Santa Montefiore (#3 Deverill Chronicles) - It is 1939 and peace has flourished since the Great War ended. But much has changed for the Deverill family and now a new generation is waiting in the wings.

“All that mankind has done, thought, gained, or been; it is lying as in magic preservation in the pages of books.”

— [Thomas Carlyle](#)

7 Ate 9: The Untold Story by Tara Lazar (JP LAZ) - A great punny twist on a classic children's joke that will amuse little ones and parents alike.

A Higher Loyalty: Truth, Lies and Leadership by James Comey (363.25 COM) - In his book, former FBI director James Comey shares his never-before-told experiences from some of the highest-stakes situations of his career in the past two decades of American government, exploring what good, ethical leadership looks like, and how it drives sound decisions. His journey provides an unprecedented entry into the corridors of power, and a remarkable lesson in what makes an effective leader.

The Address: A Novel by Fiona Davis (FIC DAV, LP FIC DAV) - Davis delivers a richly layered historical plot that explores the stories and rumors of one of Manhattan's most prestigious residences: The Dakota. From socialites to failed careers to amazing characters never to be forgotten, this is one of 2017's most glorious NY-based tales. (2) *

All The Missing Girls: A Novel by Megan Miranda (FIC MIR) - Fiendishly plotted, Miranda convincingly conjures a haunted setting that serves as a character in its own right, but what really makes this roller-coaster so memorable is her inspired use of reverse chronology, so that each chapter steps further back in time, dramatically shifting the reader's perspective. *

All the Money in the World by John Pearson (B GET, dvd FIC ALL) - In this biography of the Getty family, John Pearson traces the creation of their phenomenal wealth and the ways in which it has touched and tainted the lives of various generations. Packed with colorful characters, bitter feuds and unexpected turns, it is a riveting insight into the lives of the super-rich.

The Baker's Secret by Stephen P. Kiernan (FIC KIE, LP FIC KIE) - A dazzling novel of World War II and a shimmering tale of courage, optimism, determination, and the resilience of the human

to start a new, ongoing, superhero fantasy with a beautiful, oversized issue. Welcome to *The Wicked + The Divine*, where gods are the ultimate pop stars and pop stars are the ultimate gods. The series is largely influenced by pop music and various mythological deities, and includes the themes of life and death in the story.

The Women in the Castle by Jessica Shattuck (FIC SHA, LP FIC SHA) - If you love historical fiction, this is a must-read book. It's captivating, fascinating, and incredibly faithful to the events as they happened, as Jessica Shattuck reveals an entirely new side of what it's like to be a woman in wartime. *



“The greatest gift is the passion for reading.
It is cheap, it consoles, it distracts,
it excites,
it gives you knowledge of the world and experience of a wide kind.
It is a moral illumination.”
— [Elizabeth Hardwick](#)

spirit, set in a small Normandy village on the eve of D-Day. *

Before We Were Yours: A Novel by Lisa Wingate (FIC WIN, LP FIC WIN) - Based on one of America's most notorious real-life scandals, in which Georgia Tann, director of a Memphis-based adoption organization, kidnapped and sold poor children to wealthy families all over the country, Lisa Wingate's riveting, wrenching, and ultimately uplifting tale reminds us how, even though the paths we take can lead to many places, the heart never forgets where we belong. (2) *

Between Heaven and the Real World by Stephen Curtis Chapman (B CHA) - For decades, Steven Curtis Chapman's music and message have brought hope and inspiration to millions. Now, for the first time, Steven openly shares the experiences that have shaped him, his faith, his family, and his music in a life that has included incredible highs and faith-shaking lows.

Born a Crime by Trevor Noah (B NOA, cd 920 NOA) - A compelling new memoir, this book provides a harrowing look, through the prism of Mr. Noah's family, at life in South Africa under apartheid and the country's lurching entry into a post-apartheid era in the 1990s.

Colorless Tsukuru Tazaki and His Years of Pilgrimage by Haruki Murakami (FIC MUR) - The remarkable story of a young man haunted by a great loss; of dreams and nightmares that have unintended consequences for the world around us; and of a journey into the past that is necessary to mend the present. Here Haruki Murakami, one of the most revered voices in literature today, gives us a story of love, friendship, and heartbreak for the ages.

The Cranes Dance by Meg Howrey (FIC HOW) - Howrey's engaging novel exposes the competitive world of professional ballet through Kate Crane, a charmingly sarcastic ballerina. Howrey herself was a professional dancer and her revelations about family, talent, and what makes us special creates a thought-provoking and entertaining read.

Deep Undercover: My Secret Life and Tangled Allegiances as a KGB Spy in America by Jack Barsky (327.124 BAR, cd 327.124 BAR) - Millions watched the CBS *60 Minutes* special on Jack Barsky in 2015. Now, in this fascinating memoir, the Soviet KGB agent tells his story of gut-wrenching choices, appalling betrayals, his turbulent inner world, and the secret life he lived for years without getting caught.

The Diviners by Libba Bray (Y BRA) - Seventeen-year-old Evie O'Neill helps her uncle Will, curator of the fictional "Museum of American Folklore, Superstition, and the Occult," uncover the killer behind a mysterious series of murders. Evie has a secret power that can help catch the killer, if he doesn't catch her first. This is Book #1 of the Diviner Series.

Dragonsong by Anne McCaffrey (Y MCC) - Fifteen-year-old Menolly allies with magnificent dragons in the first book in the Harper Hall trilogy, set within science fiction legend Anne McCaffrey's beloved and bestselling Dragonriders of Pern series.

The Dry: A Novel by Jane Harper (FIC HAR, LP FIC HAR) - A page-turner written with a maturity of style rarely seen in a first-time novelist. Harper's exploration of the pressures of a small town where people are not able to escape the past is thoughtful and mature. Her plot twists and layering are intricate and subtle and keep you guessing to the end while the townspeople grow on you despite their dirty secrets. ☺

Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman (FIC HON, LP FIC HON, cd FIC HON) - Soon to be a major motion picture produced by Reese Witherspoon, *Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine* is the smart, warm, and uplifting story of an out-of-the-ordinary heroine whose deadpan weirdness and unconscious wit make for an irresistible journey as she realizes that the only way to survive is to open your heart.

The End We Start From by Megan Hunter (FIC HUN, LP FIC HUN, cd FIC HUN) - In her stylish debut novel, Megan Hunter depicts new motherhood against a climate-change cataclysm in which city-swallowing floods tip England into chaos. The real strength of this wonderfully earthy novel is in its sharpened lens on motherhood's apocalyptic-feeling joys and terrors, and how they can form an all-encompassing world. (2) ☺

The Fold by Peter Clines (SF CLI) - A cunningly inventive mystery featuring a hero worthy of Sherlock Holmes and a terrifying final twist you'll never see coming, *The Fold* is that rarest of things: a genuinely page-turning science-fiction thriller.

The Gilded Years by Karin Tanabe (FIC TAN, LP FIC TAN, cd FIC TAN) - Set against the vibrant backdrop of the Gilded Age, an era when old money traditions collided with modern ideas, Tanabe has written an enticing and emotionally compelling story of hope, sacrifice, and betrayal and a gripping account of how one woman dared to risk everything for the chance at a better life. *

The Girl With Seven Names: Escape From North Korea by Hyeonseo Lee (B LEE) - An extraordinary insight into life under one of the world's most ruthless and secretive dictatorships and the story of one woman's terrifying struggle to avoid capture/repatriation and guide her family to freedom.

The Great Alone by Kristin Hannah (FIC HAN, LP FIC HAN, cd FIC HAN) - In this unforgettable

The Sunshine Sisters by Jane Green (FIC GRE, LP FIC GRE, cd FIC GRE) - An absolutely fabulous read and entertaining story about sisters that will make you laugh and cry, of course, but also ponder a dead-serious issue of what to do about mom. It's perfect for book clubs. *

Sweet Tea and Sympathy by Molly Harper (FIC HAR, LP FIC HAR) - Beloved author Molly Harper launches a brand-new contemporary romance series, Southern Eclectic, with this story of a big-city party planner who finds true love in a small Georgia town.

The Triumph of Christianity: How a Forbidden Religion Swept the World by Bart D. Ehrman (270.1 HER) - Bart Ehrman is the leading expert on early Christian texts. This book is a vivid narrative that explores why Christianity "triumphed" as a world religion. The work is particularly valuable for its critical survey of the work of other scholars in the field.

Turn Right at Machu Picchu: Rediscovering the Lost City One Step at a Time by Mark Adams (985.37 ADA, cd 985.37 ADA) - With a healthy sense of humor, Adams unearths a fascinating story, transporting his readers back to 1911, when Yale professor Hiram Bingham III hiked the Andes and stumbled upon one of South America's most miraculous and cloistered meccas.

When in Doubt, Add Butter by Beth Harbison (FIC HAR, LP FIC HAR) - For Gemma, cooking is predictable. Recipes are certain. Use good ingredients, follow the directions, and you are assured success. Life, on the other hand, is full of variables. So when Gemma's takes an unexpected turn on a road she thought was straight and narrow, she must face her past and move on in ways she never would have imagined because sometimes in life, all you need is a little hope, a lot of courage, and—oh yes—butter. *

The White Hotel by D. M. Thomas (FIC THO) - *The White Hotel* is a modern classic of enduring emotional power that attempts nothing less than to reconcile the notion of individual destiny with that of blazing imaginative and intellectual force that blends eroticism with violence and psychology to portray the horrors of the Holocaust.

The Wicked + The Divine, VOL. 1: The Faust Attack by Kieron Gillen (GN FIC WIC) - Every ninety years, twelve gods incarnate as humans. They are loved. They are hated. In two years, they are dead. They team behind critically thermonuclear floor-fillers *Young Avengers* and *Phonogramreunite*

My Holiday in North Korea: The Funniest/Worst Place on Earth by Wendy E. Simmons (951.93 SIM) - Writer and photographer Wendy Simmons shares a personal account of her vacation to one of the most reclusive nations on the planet, North Korea. During her journey she finds herself caught between an international crisis and accidentally crashing the 'wedding' of a North Korean bride to be.

Refugee by Alan Gratz (J dmd FIC GRA, J GRA) - An incredibly important, heartrending, edge-of-the-seat read, bringing light to the plight of immigrants who search for safety and freedom. With urgent, clear-eyed storytelling, Gratz's *Refugee* compellingly explores the desperation and strength that unites those struggling for a place to call home.

The Rest of Us Just Live Here by Patrick Ness (Y NES, Y cd FIC NES) - Magical, mysterious and breathtakingly suspenseful, *The Rest of Us Just Live Here* is an absolute marvel of imagination, invention, and heart. Ness' deadpan sci-fi novel pokes fun at far-fetched futuristic fantasies while emphasizing the important victories of merely living.

The Secret Diary of Hendrik Groen: 83 1/4 Years Old by Hendrik Groen (FIC GRO, LP FIC GRO, cd FIC GRO) - Technically speaking, Hendrik Groen is elderly. But at age 83 1/4, this feisty, indomitable curmudgeon has no plans to go out quietly. Bored of weak tea and potted geraniums, exasperated by the indignities of aging, Hendrik has decided to rebel on his own terms. A bestselling phenomenon that has captured imaginations around the world, *The Secret Diary of Hendrik Groen* is inspiring, charming, and laugh-out-loud funny with a deep and poignant core: a page-turning delight for readers of any age.

The Secret History of Wonder Woman by Jill Lepore (741.597 LEP) - Jill Lepore's generously illustrated *The Secret History of Wonder Woman* impressively links the iconic superhero's 1941 creation by William Moulton Marston both to the aims of mid-twentieth-century feminism and to the influential Marston family's deep domestic intrigues.

Summer Secrets by Jane Green (FIC GRE, LP FIC GRE, cd FIC GRE) - When a shocking family secret is revealed, twenty-something journalist Cat Coombs finds herself falling into a dark spiral. Wild, glamorous nights out in London and raging hangovers become her norm, leading to a terrible mistake one night while visiting family in America, on the island of Nantucket. It's a mistake for which she can't forgive herself.

portrait of human frailty and resilience, Kristin Hannah reveals the indomitable character of the modern American pioneer and the spirit of a vanishing Alaska—a place of incomparable beauty and danger. *The Great Alone* is a daring, beautiful, stay-up-all-night story about love and loss, the fight for survival, and the wildness that lives in both man and nature. (4) *

God Gave Me You by Tricia Seaman (362.196 SEA, cd 362.196 SEA) - *God Gave Me You* will inspire you with a story of courage, trust, and faith that God's plans are bigger and more amazing than we could hope for on our own. It's a story you'll turn to again and again when you're looking for hope and a reason to believe in miracles.

God's Guest List: Welcoming Those Who Influence Our Lives by Debbie Macomber (248 MAC, cd 248 MAC) - Through touching true stories and inspiring insight Debbie Macomber takes readers on a journey to discover the shaping influence others have on us and the power we have to shape and influence those whose paths cross ours.

Grant by Ron Chernow (B GRA, LP B GRA, cd 920 GRA) - Chernow impressively examines Grant's sensitivities and complexities and helps us to better understand an underappreciated man and underrated president who served his country extraordinarily well. This monumental biography of the 18th president is essential to understanding our race-conscious nation today.

The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas (Y THO, Y dmd FIC THO) - *The Hate U Give* is an important and timely novel that reflects the world today's teens inhabit. Starr's struggles create a complex character, and Thomas boldly tackles topics like racism, gangs, police violence, and interracial dating. This topical, necessary story is highly recommended for all libraries.

The Hired Girl by Laura Amy Schlitz (Y SCH, Y cd FIC SCH) - Coming-of-age drama and deeper questions of faith, belonging, and womanhood are balanced with just the right blend of humor in this book. It is a wonderful look into the life of a strong girl who learns that she needs the love of others to truly grow up.

In Chocolate We Trust by Peter Kurie (371.93 KUR) - Peter Kurie has written the definitive book on Hershey's legacy, an in-depth analysis of how Hershey's Trust has dominated and transformed Hershey, Pennsylvania over a hundred-year period. It is not just a thorough history covering the origins of the trust, but also a deep look into how trusts and empires can be built which last long after the founder's death.

Jesus the King: Understanding the Life and Death of the Son of God by Timothy Keller (232 KEL) - *Jesus the King* is Keller's revelatory look at the life of Christ as told in the Gospel of Mark. In it, Keller shows how the story of Jesus is at once cosmic, historical, and personal, calling each of us to look anew at our relationship with God.

The Last Unicorn by Peter S. Beagle (J BEA) - Almost as if it were the last fairy tale to come out of hiding in the forests of childhood, *The Last Unicorn* is as full of enchantment as any of the favorite tales readers may choose to recall. It is delicate and sensitive, yet a powerful rendering of all the intangibles that make a fairy tale unforgettable.

Leave Me Alone! By Vera Brosgol (JP BROSGOL) - Brosgol's folkloric tale is full of humor and repetition, making it a good choice to read aloud. With clever trips to the moon and through worm holes, it brings a fresh new perspective to the world of children's books.

Leonardo da Vinci by Walter Isaacson (B DAV, cd 920 DAV) - Based on thousands of pages from Leonardo's astonishing notebooks and new discoveries about his life and work, Walter Isaacson weaves a narrative that connects his art to his science.

Life's Journeys According to Mister Rogers: Things to Remember Along the Way by Fred Rogers (170.44 ROG) - The book presents Rogers's thoughts on such themes as identity formation, relationships and spirituality. Each page offers a short but profound quote, capturing the simple eloquence that made him so beloved. Reader's of all ages will be inspired by this touching tribute to one of the most endearing television personalities of all time.

Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng (FIC NG, LP FIC NG, cd FIC NG) - Written with deep empathy and vivid characters who feel true to life, *Little Fires Everywhere* is a captivating, insightful examination of motherhood, identity, family, privilege, perfectionism, obsession, and the secrets about ourselves we try to hide. (3) *

The Lost Girls by Heather Young (FIC YOU, LP FIC YOU, cd FIC YOU) - A stunning debut novel that examines the price of loyalty, the burden of regret, the meaning of salvation, and the sacrifices we make for those we love. It is told in the voices of two unforgettable women linked by a decades-old family mystery at a picturesque lake house. (2) * ☺

Love @ First Site: A Novel by Jane Moore (FIC MOO) - Told with sparkling wit, wisdom, and sass, *Love @ First Site* is an irresistible tale about what happens when we start to look for love between the lines on a computer screen. It is a winning look at contemporary romance.

The Lying Game by Ruth Ware (FIC WAR, LP FIC WAR, cd FIC WAR) - From the instant *New York Times* bestselling author of blockbuster thrillers *In a Dark, Dark Wood* and *The Woman in Cabin 10* comes a chilling new novel of friendship, secrets, and the dangerous games teenaged girls play.

Make Your Bed: Little Things That Can Change Your Life...and Maybe the World by William McRaven (158.1 MCR, cd 158.1 MCR) - On May 17, 2014, Admiral William H. McRaven addressed the graduating class of the University of Texas at Austin on their Commencement Day. Admiral McRaven's original speech went viral with over 10 million views. Building on the core tenets laid out in his speech, this timeless book provides simple wisdom, practical advice, and words of encouragement that will inspire readers to achieve more, even in life's darkest moments.

Many Ways to Say I Love You: Wisdom for Parents and Children from Mister Rogers by Fred Rogers (649.1 ROG) - *Many Ways to Say I Love You* is a treasury of segments from speeches and observations from his years of working with parents and children, as well as other materials from books, songs, TV commentary, and more. Using stories from his own life, Mister Rogers discusses the importance of children and the role of parents.

The Masterpiece by Francine Rivers (FIC RIV, LP FIC RIV) - *New York Times* bestselling author Francine Rivers returns to her romance roots with this unexpected and redemptive love story, a probing tale that reminds us that mercy can shape even the most broken among us into an imperfect yet stunning masterpiece. Fans of Christian romance will delight in this tale of salvation through love.

Moloka'i: A Novel by Allen Brennert (FIC BRE, LP FIC BRE, cd FIC BRE) - This richly imagined novel, set in Hawaii more than a century ago, is an extraordinary epic of a little-known time and place and a deeply moving testament to the resiliency of the human spirit. *Moloka'i* is the true-to-life chronicle of a people who embraced life in the face of death. *

Monstress Volume 1: Awakening by Marjorie Liu (GN FIC MON) - Set in an alternate matriarchal 1900's Asia, in a richly imagined world of art deco-inflected steam punk, *MONSTRESS* tells the story of a teenage girl who is struggling to survive the trauma of war, and who shares a mysterious psychic link with a monster of tremendous power, a connection that will transform them both and make them the target of both human and otherworldly powers.

My Brilliant Friend by Elena Ferrante (FIC FER, LP FIC FER) - *My Brilliant Friend*, the first of a quartet, is a sweeping family-centered epic that encompasses issues of loyalty, love, and a transforming Europe. This gorgeous novel should bring a host of new readers to one of Italy's most acclaimed authors.