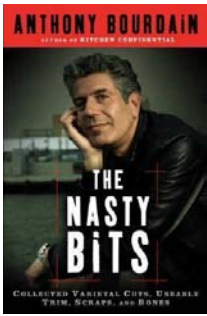


# Clarkson Library Staff Picks 2011

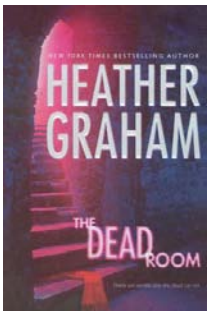


641. 5092 BOU

[The nasty bits : collected varietal cuts, usable trim, scraps, and bones](#)

**By Anthony Bourdain**

In this typically bold effort, Bourdain (*Kitchen Confidential*), like the fine chef he is, pulls together an entertaining feast from the detritus of his years of cooking and traveling. Arranged around the basic tastes: salty, sweet, sour, bitter and umami, this scattershot collection of anecdotes puts Bourdain's brave palate, notorious sense of adventure and fine writing on display.

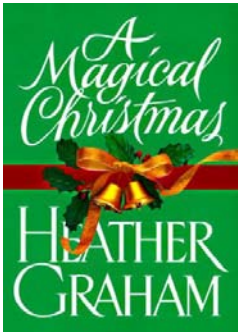


F GRAHA

[The Dead Room](#)

**By Heather Graham**

An archaeologist is tempting fate by returning to the scene where an explosion killed her fiancée a year earlier. She'll be digging for the truth with the help of people from the past and present. With a surprise ending this story makes for quite the book.



**F GRAHA**

**[A MAGICAL CHRISTMAS](#)**

**By Heather Graham**

Keeping things simple with the ones you love is the main message here. This story entwines a hint of magic so the message can entwine ones heart.

This may have Christmas in the title but the message is a year round one. ☺



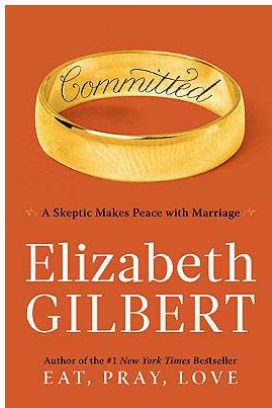
**F KURLA**

**[MUCH ADO IN THE MOONLIGHT](#)**

**By Lynn Kurland**

When a play director visits England she has to watch her step. While her goal is to put on 'The Scottish Play' she'll need to beware of the Scottish folk from the past. This story is full of wit and humour.

I've read some of Lynn's other books. I've enjoyed them as well.

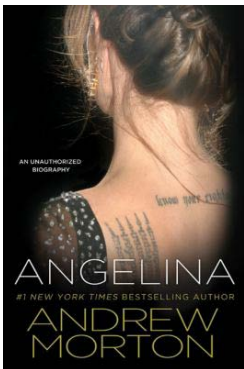


**306.81 GILBE**

**[Committed : a skeptic makes peace with marriage](#)**

**By Elizabeth Gilbert**

This is a sequel to the bestseller “Eat, Pray, Love”. Despite their commitment, Felipe and Elizabeth are reluctant to marry. One day Felipe is stopped by USA Customs and he is unable to enter the country unless they tie the knot. The couple travels across Southeast Asia, waiting for Felipe’s status to be cleared. Gilbert spends this time studying history, practice, and meaning of marriage. “She tells an irresistibly romantic tale spiked with unusual insights into love and marriage”. *From Booklist*

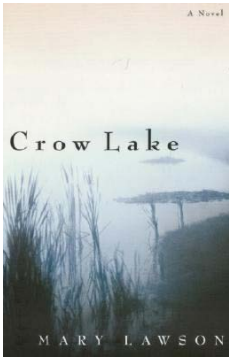


**791.43028 JOLIE**

**[Angelina: an unauthorized biography](#)**

**By Andrew Morton**

No. 1 New York Times best-seller about life of Oscar Award-winning superstar Angelina Jolie. It covers all the bases of her life to date, including growing up in a broken home; her estrangement from her father, actor Jon Voight; her drug addictions; her highly publicized romantic relationships; her humanitarian work; and marriage and motherhood with Brad Pitt. (Library Journal Review)



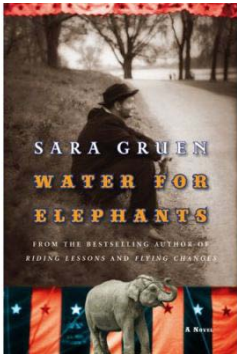
**F LAWSON**

**Crow Lake**

**By Mary Lawson**

Crow Lake is a remarkable novel, utterly gripping and yet highly literate, written in such a fresh, believable voice that I had to keep reminding myself that this is fiction.

It is a story of siblings rivalry and family dynamics. Luke, Matt, Kate, and Bo Morrison are born in Ontario farming community of only a few families, so isolated that “the road led only south”. The Morrison children have some hope of getting off the land through the blessings of education, but before this takes place their parents get killed in a tragic collision with a logging truck and their dreams will never come true.



**F GRUEN**

**WATER FOR ELEPHANTS**

**By Sara Gruen**

It's a very intriguing story of a life in circus during the times of Great Depression. The main character, Jacob Jankowski, suddenly orphaned and penniless, finds a place to live tending circus animals. He also comes to Marlena, the star of the equestrian act and wife of August, a charismatic but cruel animal trainer. Caught between his love for Marlena and his need to belong in the crazy family of travelling performers, Jacob is freed only by a murderous secret that will bring the big top down.



**F SANSON**

**[THE MOBILE LIBRARY \(Series\)](#)**

**By Ian Sansom**

A cozy mystery, full of eccentric characters and lots of laughs.  
From Booklist: “ In *The Case of the Missing Books* (2007), the first installment in the Mobile Library series, Sansom overcame a paper-thin plot with scene after hilarious scene, as Israel Armstrong, the unlikely librarian of Tumdrum, Northern Ireland, tried to both adapt to village life and solve the titular crime.”

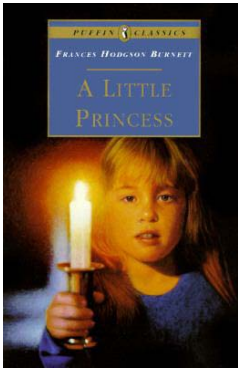


**J GEORG**

**[MY SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN](#)**

**By Jean Craighead George**

One of those books that I read as a younger person and was so good I just had to read again as a “grownup”. A boy escapes his crowded city apartment and survives in the wilderness all by himself. I was especially enchanted when he spent the winter in a hollowed-out tree.



**J BURNE**

**A LITTLE PRINCESS**

**By Frances Hodgson Burnett**

My favourite book, one I've read over and over. Sara Crewe is pampered little rich girl who suddenly finds herself poor and fatherless and must work like a slave for a living at the boarding school where she was formerly a student. *A Series of Unfortunate Events* has been compared to this book because both books are about mistreated orphans. The difference here is that Sara is saved by a very large imagination, innate kindness and a happy lucky ending.

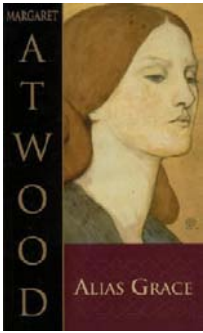


**F COBEN**

**LONG LOST**

**By Harlan Coben**

An unexpected phone call from an old flame, Terese, brings Myron Bolitar, to Paris to help her unravel a mystery involving her ex-husband. Turns out that the CIA, Terese's long-dead daughter, an antiabortion group, a stem cell clinic, and-oh, yeah-al-Qaeda are also involved. In a lesser writer's hands, this could have been ridiculous, but Coben is the master of taking impossible, even outlandish situations and somehow making them realistic. *Library Journal Review*

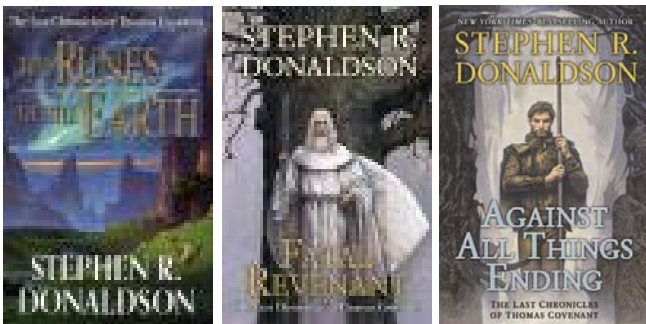


**F ATWOO**

**[ALIAS GRACE](#)**

**By Margaret Atwood**

Margaret Atwood takes us back to the sensational double murder that occurred in Canada in 1843. Grace Marks is serving a life sentence in Kingston Penitentiary for the vicious murder of her employer and his housekeeper/mistress. Grace herself has no recollection of the events and young American doctor Simon Jordan works ceaselessly to uncover her memories and solve the puzzle of her guilt or innocence. An oldie but a goodie!



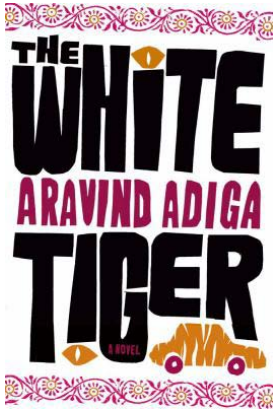
**FF DONAL**

**[AGAINST ALL THINGS ENDING](#)**

**(THE LAST CHRONICLES OF THOMAS COVENANT #3)**

**By Stephen R. Donaldson**

The long-awaited sequel to *The Runes of the Earth* and *Fatal Revenant* returns readers to *The Land*, an alternate world. Thomas Covenant is alive again, restored to his mortal body by the unimaginable combined force of his own white gold ring, Linden Avery's Staff of Law, and the ancient dagger called High Loric's Krill. His resurrection is Linden's defiant act of love, despite warnings from mortals and immortals that unleashing this much power would destroy the world. The thunderclap of power has awakened the Worm of the World's End. If they have any chance to save the Land, it will come from unlikely sources - including the mysterious boy Jeremiah, Linden's adopted son, whose secrets are only beginning to come to light.



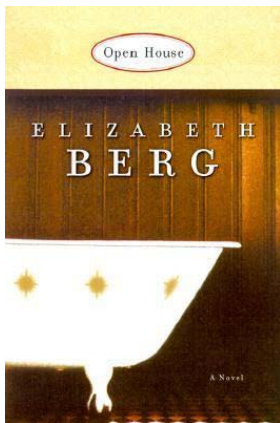
**F ADIGA**

**[THE WHITE TIGER](#)**

**By Aravind Adiga**

This book is an unromanticized view of India and its class struggles between the wealthy and the poor. Balram Halwai is a racist, homicidal chauffeur born to a poor family in India. Balram manages to escape his village and move to the city after being hired as a chauffeur for a rich master. The story is told in retrospect as a correspondence from Balram to the premier of China, who is expected to visit India. Balram tries to tell the Chinese premier about India's entrepreneurial foundation.

*The White Tiger* is engaging and a fast read!



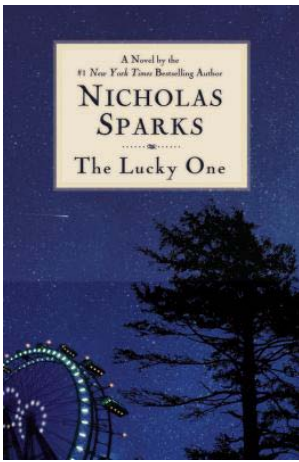
**F BERG**

**[OPEN HOUSE](#)**

**By Elizabeth Berg**

This is a story of a woman, newly separated after many years of marriage. To meet her mortgage payments, she decides to take in boarders. She finds the man of her dreams in spite of herself. Relationships with her mother, son and ex-husband are also examined. A very uplifting story! Check out other books by this author.



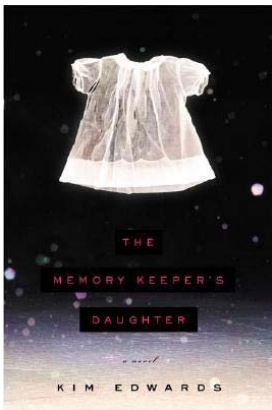


**F SPARK**

**[The Lucky One](#)**

**By Nicholas Sparks**

U.S. Marine Logan Thibault finds a photograph of a pretty young woman in the dirt in Iraq while on this third tour. He keeps the picture with him and finds that it brings him luck. Once Thibault is back home in Colorado, he can't stop thinking about the photo. Thibault decides to set off on a journey to find the young woman in the picture, Elizabeth. His journey will take him to North Carolina where he will eventually meet the young woman. What follows is a wonderful romance and suspenseful story that demonstrates where the decisions in your life will lead you, luck or not!

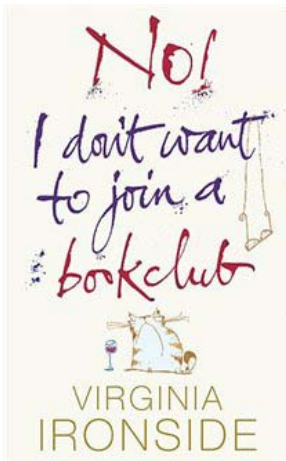


**F EDWAR**

**[THE MEMORY KEEPER'S DAUGHTER](#)**

**By Kim Edwards**

Dr. Henry is an orthopedic surgeon, but he has to help his wife deliver baby because of the snow blizzard. First born son is perfectly healthy but his twin sister has a Down syndrome. Dr Henry asks his nurse to give the baby girl to the institution and keep it a secret. He tells his wife that the second baby died. Nurse Caroline moves away and keeps the baby. "Edwards tells a moving story of two families bound by a secret that both eats away at relationships and eventually helps to create new ones." *From Booklist*



**F IRONS**

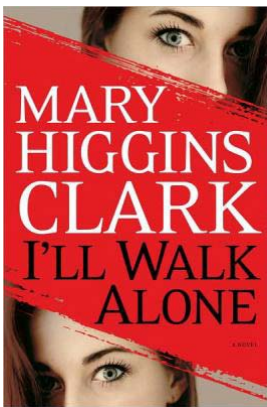
**[No! I Don't Want To Join a Book Club](#)**

**[Diary Of A 60<sup>th</sup> Year \(A Novel\)](#)**

**By Virginia Ironside**

“[Ironside] has done her readers a wonderful service in giving us the fictional Marie Sharp.... *No! I Don't Want to Join a Book Club* is, in fact, a perfect choice for book clubs. It takes on the biggest issues—our lives, loves, deaths—in acerbic, tender, thoughtful ways. Perfect for clubs, perfect for (almost) everybody.”

—*The Washington Post*



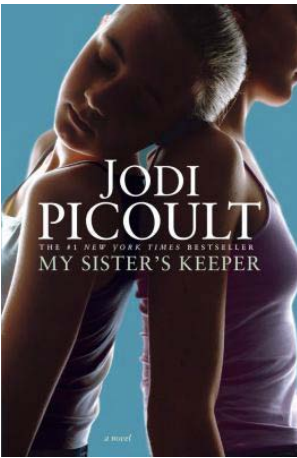
**F CLARK**

**[I'll walk alone](#)**

**By Mary Higgins Clark**

Another suspenseful story from the Queen of suspense. Short chapters and cliff hanger ends of chapters make this a fast read.

When dealing with a new business venture, a divorce and the sudden loss of one's folks, what else could go wrong? Add a kidnapping of a child and identity theft and you have the fragile state of Alexandra 'Zan' Moreland. This story will keep you guessing until the end. Enjoy!

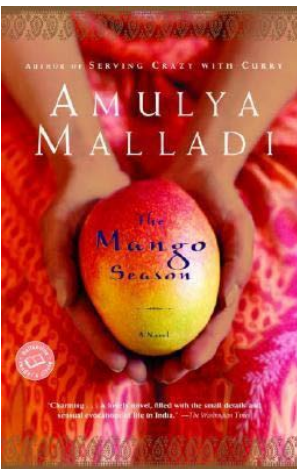


**F PICOU**

[My Sister's Keeper](#)

**By Jodi Picoult**

It is a novel about a young girl, Anna, fighting for her right to decide what medical procedures can be performed on her. Anna was genetically selected at birth to be a close donor for her sister, Kate, who was diagnosed at a young age with leukemia. Jodi Picoult covers a controversial topic on what is morally and ethically right, and how far one sister must go to help her older sister survive.



**F MALLA**

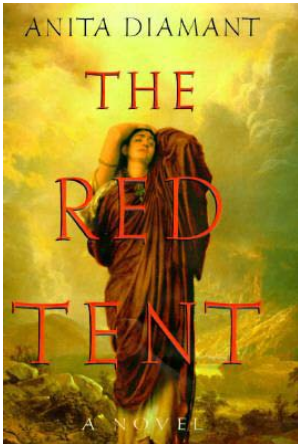
[The Mango Season](#)

**By Amulya Malladi**

**Women, humour, tradition, relationships, food, India, choices....**

From the author of “Serving Crazy with Curry”, this novel takes us to a family in India during the mango season. A woman now used to “western ways” is forced to decide between romance and tradition.

You will laugh and cry at the same time!

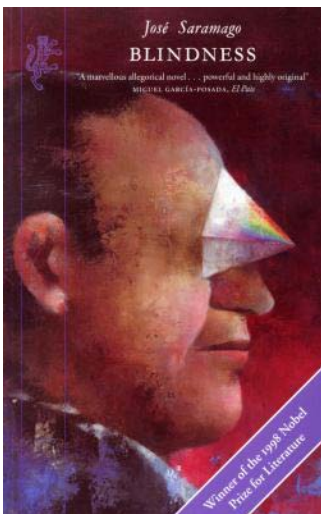


**F DIAMA**

### [The Red Tent](#)

By Anita Diamant

**Power of women, coming of age, struggles and simple pleasures, Biblical Middle East...** “Told in Dinah's voice, (someone who in the Bible, her life is only hinted at in a brief and violent detour within the chapters of the Book of Genesis that tell of her father, Jacob, and his twelve sons), Anita Diamant imagines the traditions and turmoil of ancient womanhood and the world of the red tent..”  
You will see how little life changed for some women through the years...



**F SARAM**

### [Blindness](#)

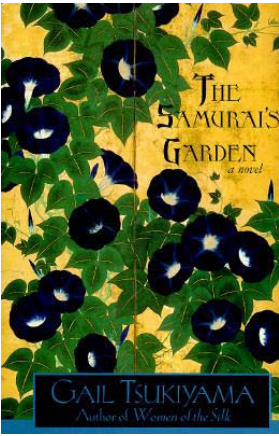
By José Saramago

**Apocalyptic, survival, endurance, human nature's high and low moments...**

Nobel-laureate Portuguese novelist envisions a plague that begins with one man going blind in the middle of rush hour, in the middle of a city.

Suddenly terror, confusion determines how these people have to live from now on...

You will not put this book down until it's finished!



**F TSUKI**

**[The Samurai's Garden](#)**

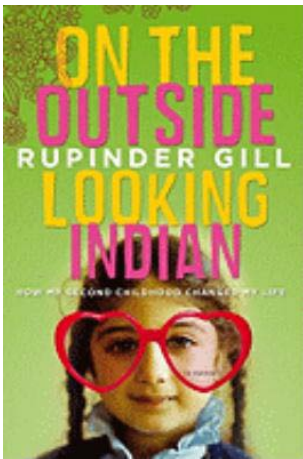
By **Gail Tsukiyama**

**World War II, relationships, secrecy, honour, love...**

"20-year-old Chinese painter named Stephen who is sent to his family's summer home in a Japanese coastal village to recover from a bout with tuberculosis.... is cared for by Matsu, a reticent housekeeper and a master gardener

A wonderfully quiet yet strong relationship is formed.

You will see love means different things...

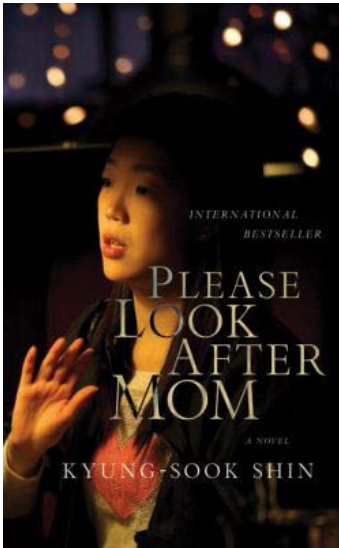


**971. 00491 GILL**

**[On the outside looking Indian : how my second childhood changed my life](#)**

**By Rupinder Gill**

"I am 30 years old. I wore my hair in two braids every day until I was 12. I dressed more conservatively than most Amish, barely left my house until I was 18 and spent the last 12 years studying and working hard on my career like a good little Indian girl. The time has come; you are witness to the dawning of my Indian Rumspringa, a Ram-Singha if you will. But instead of smoking and drinking Bud Lights in a park while yelling "Down with barn raising!" I plan to indulge in a different manner - by pursuing everything I wish had been a part of my youth. Things I always felt were part of most North Americans' adolescent experience. I will learn to swim, go to summer camp, see Disneyworld, take dance lessons, have sleepovers and finally get the pet I longed for my whole life."

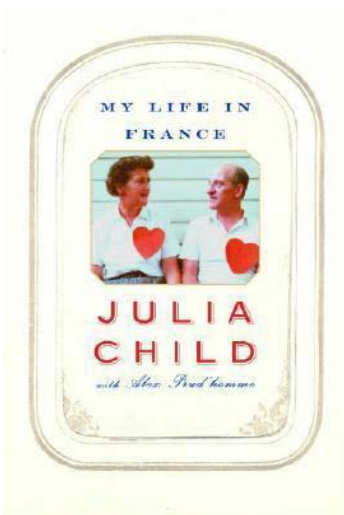


**F SIN**

**[Please Look After Mom](#)**

**By Kyung-Sook Shin**

This is a stunning, deeply moving story of a family's search for their missing mother - and their discovery of the desires, heartaches and secrets they never realized she harbored within. Told by the alternating voices of Mom's daughter, son, her husband and, in the shattering conclusion, by Mom herself, the novel pieces together, a life that appears ordinary but is anything but. You will never think of your mother the same way after you read this book.

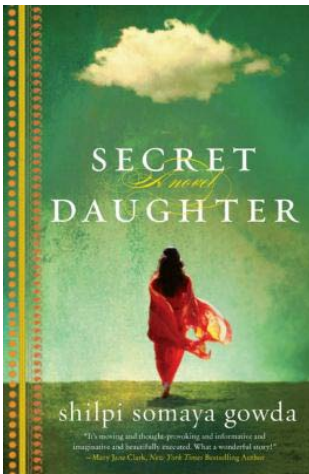


**641.2092**

**[My Life In France](#)**

**By Julia Child**

Describes her life in France and the recipes she learns and the book she writes on cooking.



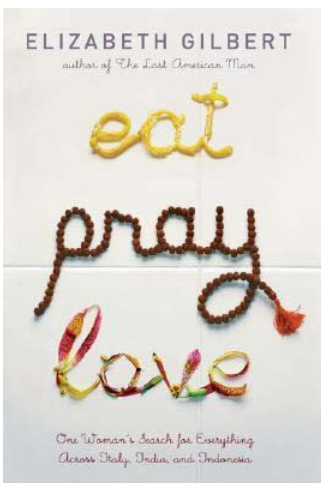
**F GOWDA**

**[Secret Daughter](#)**

**By Shilpi Somaya Gowda**

Describes why the daughter is secret and the life she has. “*Secret Daughter* is an unflinching yet compassionate story of mothers and daughters. In a tale that moves between Mumbai, India and Northern California, Shilpi Somaya Gowda sensitively explores the balancing acts of international adoption and bi-cultural families. This book is a must for anyone touched by adoption, or India, or the delicate dynamic between adolescent girls and their mothers.”

— **Sujata Massey, author of *Shimura Trouble***

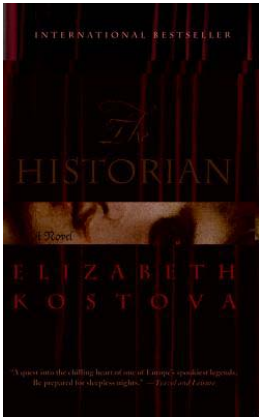


**910.4 GIL**

**[Eat, Pray, Love: One Woman's Search for Everything Across Italy, India and Indonesia](#)**

**By Elizabeth Gilbert**

A very personal and well-written memoir on how one woman pursues pleasure, devotion and balance through cultural immersion. The descriptions of Italy, India and Indonesia are so vivid that readers are completely transported into different landscapes, cultures, and belief systems

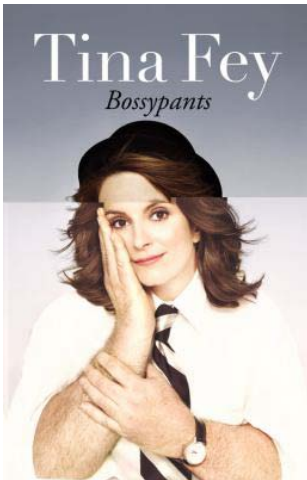


**F KOSTO**

**[The Historian](#)**

**By Elizabeth Kostova**

A well-researched work of historical fiction that spans several centuries from the Ottoman conquest of the Balkans to Cold War Europe to the present day. The novel breathes new life on the legends of Vlad the Impaler, made famous by Bram Stoker's *Dracula*. Kostova devoted 10 years of her life to crafting this literary masterpiece.



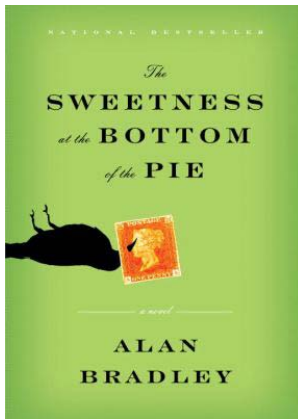
**792. 7028 FEY**

**[Bossypants](#)**

**By Tina Fey**

Fans of Tina Fey from *30 Rock* and *Saturday Night Live* will enjoy Fey's memoir. Fey is just as funny on paper as she is on television.



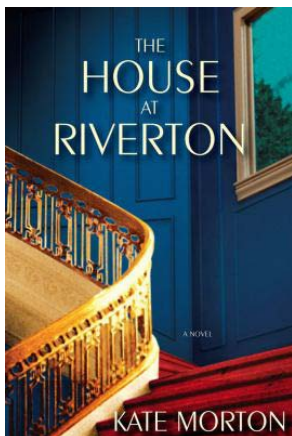


**F BRADL**

**[The Sweetness at the Bottom  
of the Pie](#)**

**By Alan Bradley**

Eleven year old Flavia de Luce is a delightful young chemist, the youngest of three sisters, and a precocious amateur detective. This fun whodunit is the first book in a series.

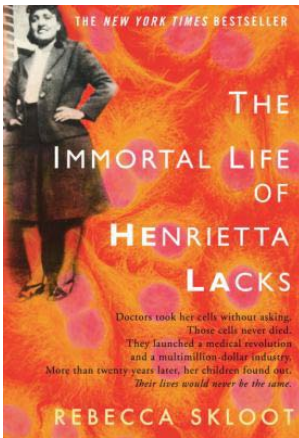


**F MORTO**

**[The House at Riverton](#)**

**By Kate Morton**

The storytelling reminds me a little of Titanic, the movie. Now in a nursing home, Grace recounts her life as a servant in the great house of Riverton. Grace was employed when a famous poet killed himself at a Riverton party.

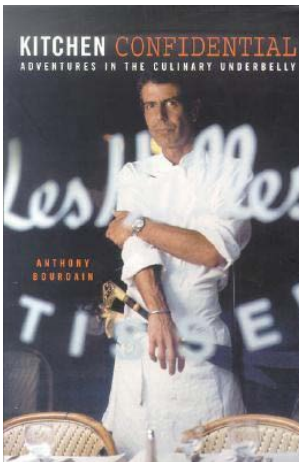


**616. 02774 SKL**

**[The Immortal life of Henrietta Lacks](#)**

By Rebecca Skloot

Skloot's vivid account begins with the life of Henrietta Lacks, who comes fully alive on the page... 'Immortal Life', reads like a novel."--Eric Roston, *The Washington Post*

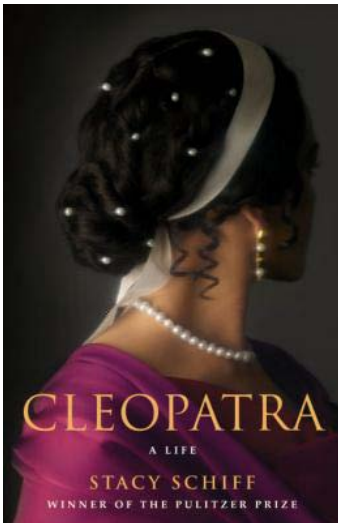


**641. 5092 BOUR**

**[Kitchen Confidential: adventures in the culinary underbelly](#)**

By Anthony Bourdain

Anthony Bourdain, the self-proclaimed bad boy of the culinary world delivers an excellent look at what actually goes on behind the line. He holds nothing back in giving all the gritty details about "the life" as he calls it, and what that entails for cooks, chefs, and the culinary world of New York City.

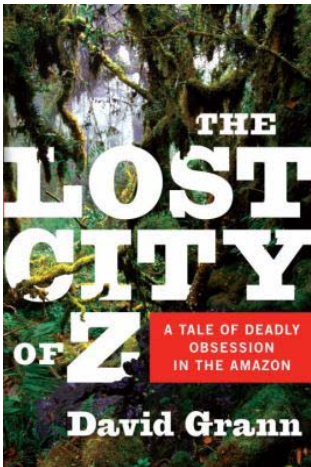


932. 021 CLEOP

[Cleopatra: A Life](#)

By Stacey Schiff

Stacey Schiff does Cleopatra justice in trying to wade through varying historical accounts of her life, which were mostly written by Roman men, to discover what her experiences and motivations may have really been like. On top of that, there is still all of the action and intrigue that marked the end of the Hellenistic age and the beginning of the Roman Empire. An excellent read.



918. 11046 GRA

[The Lost City of Z: A Tale of Deadly Obsession in the Amazon](#)

By David Grann

David Grann's primary focus in this book is British explorer Percy Fawcett and his obsession with a lost city (aka El Dorado) buried deep in the jungles of the Amazon. While Grann does an admirable job of highlighting Fawcett's obsession, along with many other explorations into the treacherous jungles of the Amazon, some of the most interesting material is that of Grann's own growing obsession which eventually leads him into the jungle himself.

Full of history and adventure this is an interesting read that I would recommend to any person curious about exploration, mystery, anthropology, or the gross and disgusting things that insects can do to the human body.

Henry  
Kissinger  
On  
China

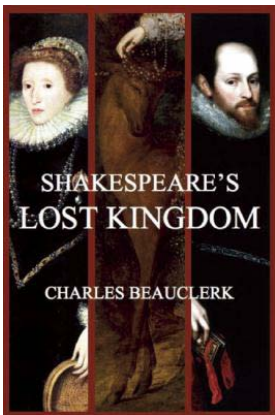
327.51 KIS

[On China](#)

**By Henry Kissinger**

"Fascinating, shrewd... [The book's] portrait of China is informed by Mr. Kissinger's intimate firsthand knowledge of several generations of Chinese leaders. The book deftly traces the rhythms and patterns in Chinese history...even as it explicates the philosophical differences that separate it from the United States."

The New York Times

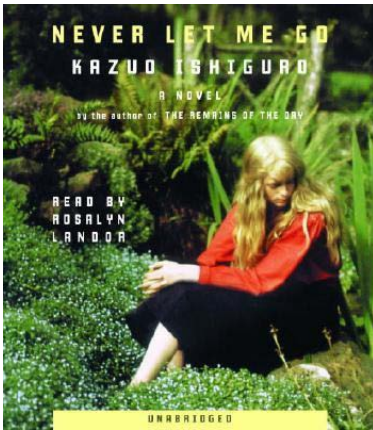


822.33 A

[Shakespeare's lost kingdom: the true history of Shakespeare and Elizabeth](#)

**By Charles Beauclerk**

"An intriguing book that proposes another forceful argument in this age old debate. Beauclerk's detailed exploration divides the mythical notions from the historical truths. You will have a hard time putting this book down." —Roland Emmerich



**F ISHIG**

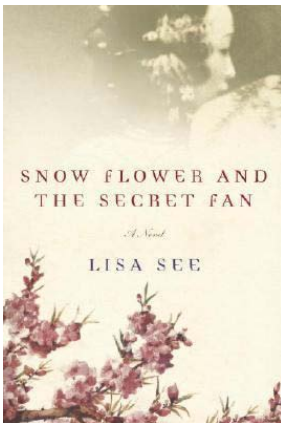
### [Never Let Me Go](#)

#### **By Kazuo Ishiguro**

Katy D. tells stories from her life in the English boarding school. The children were sheltered from the outside world and brought up to believe to be special. At first it appears her life is that of normal child and young adult; She has best friends; She experiences deep emotions: friendship, love, loss, and betrayal.

We learn that, that there is another side of this story and the children raised up at Hailsham are not who they appear to be.

“From the acclaimed author of *The Remains of the Day* and *When We Were Orphans*, a moving new novel that subtly reimagines our world and time in a haunting story of friendship and love.”



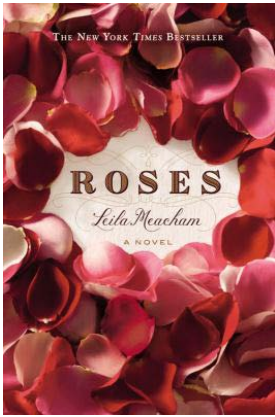
**F SEE**

### [Snow Flower and The Secret Fan](#)

#### **By Lisa See**

A fascinating story told by elderly Chinese woman, Lily, about her life in 19-century China. We learn about little Chinese girls foot binding experience, *nu shu*- a secret language used exclusively by the women of Hunan Province for 1000 years, *laotong* - the arranged friendship between little girls meant to last a lifetime. Lily's life story offers abundance of little-known facts from daily life of typical Chinese family from that historical era.

“This tale illustrates the most profound of human emotions: love and hate, self-absorption and devotion, pride and humility, to name just a few” –*Molly Connally, Chantilly Regional Library,*

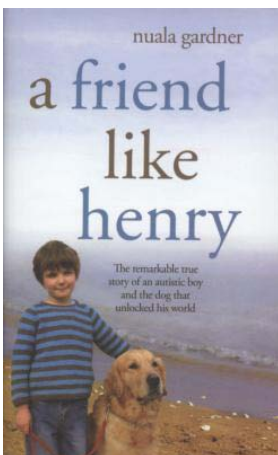


**F MEACH**

[Roses](#)

**By Leila Meacham**

This is the story of an emerging city in East Texas, its founders and their children. Driven by their birthright and family legacies in the timber and cotton industries, Mary and Percy, meant for each other, never marry. Clearly in love and devoted to one another, they now must deal with the deceit, secrets and tragedies of their choices, all which affect generations of children to come. This book spans the 20<sup>th</sup> century and covers an amazing story of family, forgiveness and true love. You'll also enjoy the descriptions of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century industries which the country was built on. A great read for those who enjoy family sagas!

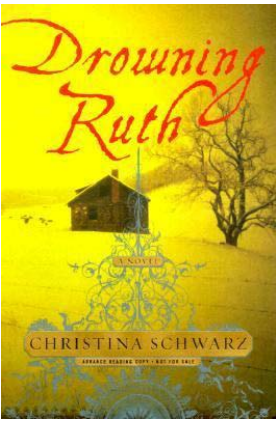


**616. 85882 GAR**

[A friend like Henry : \[the remarkable true story of an autistic boy and the dog that unlocked his world\]](#)

**By Nuala Gardner**

This book is simply one of the most touching books I've ever read. Jamie and Nuala Gardner are parents to Dale, a severely autistic boy. Dale's autism was so severe that terrifying tantrums occurred at random times and the family was starting to fall apart. Henry, a patient, wonderful Golden Retriever was introduced as a therapy-assistance dog, and more importantly became a friend, to young Dale. The bond between the Henry and Dale would change the Gardners' life and give Dale a new lease on life. A touching, sweet story of how dogs can change our lives.



**F SCHWA**

**[Drowning Ruth](#)**

**By Schwarz, Christina**

A gripping psychological thriller...In the winter of 1919, a young mother named Mathilda Neumann drowns beneath the ice of a rural Wisconsin Lake. The shock of her death dramatically changes the lives of her daughter, troubled sister, and husband. . . . The dark family secrets and the unsettling discoveries eventually lead to the truth of what really happened the night of the drowning.



**MF MASSE**

**[The Floating Girl](#)**

**By Sujata Massey**

From Publishers Weekly

...Massey takes readers on a thoughtful tour of contemporary Japanese youth culture in this accomplished murder mystery. Rei Shimura is a Japanese-American antiques dealer who, looking to supplement her income, has begun writing a column for the Gaijin Times, Tokyo's English-language newspaper. ...Shimura gets what is, for her, an unwanted assignment--to write an article on the history and culture of manga, or Japanese comic books. ...Things begin to get shady, however, when Shimura is injured falling down a flight of stairs (was she pushed?) and when one of Takahashi's friends turns up dead...in a river. Shimura begins to suspect that she is being followed.... Deftly sketching everyday life in parts of Tokyo rarely seen by tourists, Massey tells a series of overlapping stories about identity, the popular media and the hilarious frenzy of contemporary comic book culture.