

Great Books You May Have Missed: 2003-2020

Selected by Peter Thornell, Collection Development Librarian
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2020

FICTION

1. The Island Child - Molly Aitken
2. Rest and Be Thankful - Emma Glass
3. Bear Necessity - James Gould-Bourn
4. The Midnight Library – Matt Haig
5. Follow Me to Ground – Sue Rainsford
6. Little Eyes - Samantha Schwebelin

NON-FICTION

7. The Toni Morrison Book Club - Juda Bennett, et al
8. Red Comet – Heather Clark
9. Carville’s Cure - Pam Fessler
10. Clean: The New Science of Skin – James Hamblin
11. The Beginning or the End - Greg Mitchell
12. My Autobiography of Carson McCullers – Jenn Shapland
13. The Big Goodbye – Sam Wasson

2019

FICTION

1. The Scent Keeper – Erica Bauermeister
2. The Binding – Bridget Collins
3. The Girl Who Reads on the Metro – Christine Feret-Fleury
4. Goulash – Brian Kimberling
5. Rabbits for Food – Binnie Kirshenbaum
6. Where Reasons End – Yiyun Li
7. Lost Children Archive – Valeria Luiselli
8. The Heavens – Sandra Newman

NON-FICTION

9. All the Wild Hungers – Karen Babine
10. The Last Whalers – Doug Bock Clark
11. One Long River of Song – Brian Doyle
12. Maid – Stephanie Land
13. Underland – Robert Macfarlane
14. The Guarded Gate – Daniel Okrent
15. Things We Didn’t Talk About When I Was a Girl – Jeannie Vanasco
16. The Unwinding of the Miracle – Julie Yip-Williams

2018

FICTION

1. The Ensemble – Gabel Aja
2. Bar Harbor Retirement Home for Famous Writers – Terri-Lynne Defino
3. The Book of Hidden Things – Francesco Dimitri
4. Freshwater – Akwaeke Emezi
5. The Widows of Malabar Hill – Sujata Massey
6. The Parking Lot Attendant – Nafkote Tamirat
7. Flights – Olga Tokarczuk
8. In Every Moment We Are Still Alive – Tom Malmquist

NON-FICTION

9. The Poison Squad – Deborah Blum
10. All You Can Ever Know – Nicole Chung
11. Babel – Gaston Dorren
12. What the Eyes Don't See – Mona Hanna-Attisha
13. Counting Sheep – Axel Linden
14. The Mystery of the Exploding Teeth – Thomas Morris
15. Indianapolis – Lynn Vincent & Sara Vladic
16. The Dinosaur Artist – Paige Williams
17. She Has Her Mother's Laugh – Carl Zimmer

2017

FICTION

1. Mrs. Osmond – John Banville
2. The Marsh King's Daughter – Karen Dionne
3. The Wanderers – Meg Howrey
4. The Grip of It – Jac Jemc
5. Goodbye, Vitamin – Rachel Khong
6. Ginny Moon – Benjamin Ludwig
7. Fever Dream – Samantha Schwebelin
8. Lucky Boy – Shanthi Sekaran
9. Spy of the First Person – Sam Shepard
10. The One Inside – Sam Shepard

NON-FICTION

11. Nomadland – Jessica Bruder
12. Hank & Jim – Scott Eyman
13. American Fire – Monica Hesse
14. The Dawn Watch – Maya Jasanoff
15. The Inheritance – Niki Kapsambelis
16. An Odyssey – Daniel Mendelsohn
17. No One Cares About Crazy People – Ron Powers
18. The Lost City of the Monkey God – Douglas Preston
19. Churchill and Orwell – Thomas Ricks
20. Dying: a memoir – Cory Taylor

2016

FICTION

1. Pond – Claire-Louise Bennett
2. The Nix – Nathan Hill
3. I Let You Go – Clare Mackintosh
4. Sleeping Giants – Sylvain Neuvel
5. A Head Full of Ghosts – Paul Tremblay
6. Extreme Makeover – Dan Wells
7. Another Brooklyn – Jacqueline Woodson
8. The Sun is Also a Star – Nicola Yoon

NON-FICTION

9. Evicted – Matthew Desmond
10. The Wood for the Trees – Richard Fortey
11. Lab Girl – Hope Jahren
12. The Bridge Ladies – Betsy Lerner
13. City of Thorns – Ben Rawlence
14. All the Single Ladies – Rebecca Traister

2015

FICTION

1. A Manual for Cleaning Women – Lucia Berlin
2. The Turner House – Angela Flournoy
3. Golden State – Stephanie Kegan
4. Maybe in Another Life – Taylor Jenkins Reid
5. Seveneves – Neal Stephenson
6. The Kind Worth Killing – Peter Swanson

NON-FICTION

7. Operation Nemesis – Eric Bogosian
8. A Kim Jong-Il Production – Paul Fischer
9. Bettyville – George Hodgman
10. Displacement – Lucy Knisley
11. Do No Harm – Henry Marsh
12. Home is Burning – Dan Marshall
13. The Road Not Taken – David Orr

2014

FICTION

1. Redeployment – Phil Klay
2. My Struggle: Book One – Karl Ove Knausgaard
3. Station Eleven – Emily St. John Mandel
4. Everything I Never Told You – Celeste Ng
5. Dept. of Speculation – Jenny Offill
6. We Are Not Ourselves – Matthew Thomas
7. Southern Reach trilogy – Jeff VanderMeer

NON-FICTION

8. On Immunity – Eula Biss

9. Schubert's Winter Journey – Ian Bostridge
10. Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant? – Roz Chast
11. Smoke Gets In Your Eyes – Caitlin Doughty
12. Five Came Back – Mark Harris
13. When Books Went to War – Molly Guptill Manning
14. What If? – Randall Munroe
15. In the Kingdom of Ice – Hampton Sides
16. Trapped Under The Sea – Neil Swidey

2013

FICTION

1. The Marlowe Papers – Ros Barber
2. The Obituary Writer – Ann Hood
3. The Dinner – Herman Koch
4. Love, Dishonor, Marry, Die, Cherish, Perish – David Rakoff
5. Above All Things – Tanis Rideout
6. Vampires in the Lemon Grove – Karen Russell
7. We Live in Water – Jess Walter

NON-FICTION

8. Empty Mansions – Bill Dedman
9. The Reenactments – Nick Flynn
10. The Astronaut Wives Club – Lily Koppel
11. A House in the Sky – Amanda Lindhout & Sara Corbett
12. A Higher Call – Adam Makos
13. Frozen in Time- Mitchel Zuckoff

2012

FICTION

1. Carry the One – Carol Anshaw
2. Tell the Wolves I'm Home – Carol Rifka Brunt
3. Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk – Ben Fountain
4. The Fault in Our Stars – John Green
5. May We Be Forgiven – A.M. Homes
6. Afterwards – Rosamund Lupton
7. When It Happens to You: A Novel in Stories – Molly Ringwald
8. Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore – Robin Sloan

NON-FICTION

9. Island Practice – Pam Belluck
10. Behind the Beautiful Forevers – Katherine Boo
11. Fraternity – Diane Brady
12. Midnight in Peking – Paul French
13. The Wives – Alexandra Popoff
14. Joseph Anton: A Memoir – Salman Rushdie
15. The End of Your Life Book Club – Will Schwalbe
16. Consider the Fork: A History of How We Cook and Eat – Bee Wilson

2011

FICTION

1. Ready Player One – Ernest Cline
2. Buzz Aldrin, what happened to you in all the confusion – Johan Harstad
3. Turn of Mind – Alice LaPlante
4. The Lover's Dictionary – David Levithan
5. Orientation: and other stories – Daniel Orozco
6. I Married You for Happiness – Lily Tuck

NON-FICTION

7. History of a Suicide – Jill Bialosky
8. Moonwalking with Einstein – Joshua Foer
9. Blood, Bones, and Butter – Gabrielle Hamilton
10. A History of the World in 100 Objects – Neil MacGregor
11. Extra Virginity – Tom Mueller
12. Lost in Shangri-La – Mitchell Zuckoff

2010

FICTION

1. The Surrendered – Chang-Rae Lee
2. One Day – David Nicholls
3. What is Left the Daughter – Howard Norman
4. The Hand That First Held Mine – Maggie O'Farrell
5. The Invisible Bridge – Julie Orringer

NON-FICTION

6. The Ticking is the Bomb – Nick Flynn
7. Apollo's Angels: A History of Ballet – Jennifer Homans
8. The Memory Chalet – Tony Judt
9. The Disappearing Spoon – Sam Kean
10. The Emperor of Maladies: A Biography of Cancer – Siddhartha Mukherjee
11. The Warmth of Other Suns – Isabel Wilkerson

2009

FICTION

1. The Girl in the Blue Dress – Gaynor Arnold
2. The Anthologist – Nicholson Baker
3. Await Your Reply – Dan Chaon
4. Spooner – Pete Dexter
5. The Lieutenant – Kate Grenville
6. Both Ways is the Only Way I Want It – Maile Meloy

NON-FICTION

7. Zeitoun – Dave Eggers
8. Fordlandia – Greg Grandin
9. One Square Inch of Silence – Gordon Hempton
10. The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind – William Kamkwamba
11. True Compass: a memoir – Edward M. Kennedy
12. A New Literary History of America – Greil Marcus & Werner Sollors, eds.

2008

FICTION

1. When Will There Be Good News? – Kate Atkinson
2. The Rain Before It Falls – Jonathan Coe
3. When We Were Romans – Matthew Kneale
4. Shadow Country – Peter Matthiessen
5. Dangerous Laughter: 13 stories – Steven Millhauser
6. Serena – Ron Rash

NON-FICTION

7. George, Being George: George Plimpton's Life – Nelson W. Aldrich, Jr., ed.
8. The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family – Annette Gordon-Reed
9. Pictures at a Revolution: Five Movies and the Birth of the New Hollywood – Mark Harris
10. Collections of Nothing – William Davies King
11. The Wordy Shipmates – Sarah Vowell
12. State by State: A Panoramic Portrait of America – Matt Weiland & Sean Wilsey

2007

FICTION

1. Then We Came To the End – Joshua Ferris
2. Last Night at the Lobster – Stewart O'Nan
3. Out Stealing Horses – Per Petterson
4. Bridge of Sighs – Richard Russo
5. Shakespeare's Kitchen – Lore Segal
6. The Post-Birthday World – Lionel Shriver

NON-FICTION

7. A View of the Ocean – Jan De Hartog
8. How Doctors Think – Jerome Groopman
9. Down the Nile – Rosemary Mahoney
10. Born Standing Up – Steve Martin
11. The Wild Trees: A Story of Passion and Daring – Richard Preston
12. Journals 1956-2000 – Arthur Schlesinger
13. The Nine: Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court – Jeffrey Toobin

POETRY

14. Time and Materials – Robert Hass
15. Music Lover's Poetry Anthology – Helen H. Houghton & Maureen M. Draper, ed.
16. American Poetry: The Seventeenth & Eighteenth Centuries – David Shields, ed.

2006

FICTION

1. Joshua – Joseph Girzone (1983)
2. Intuition – Allegra Goodman
3. The Road – Cormac McCarthy
4. The Last Town on Earth – Thomas Mullen
5. The Bird Artist – Howard Norman (1995)
6. Special Topics in Calamity Physics – Marisha Pessl

7. St. Lucy's Home for Girls Raised by Wolves: Stories – Karen Russell
8. The Thirteenth Tale: A Ghost Story – Diane Setterfield

NON-FICTION

9. A Natural History of the Senses – Diane Ackerman (1990)
10. The Great Movies I & II – Roger Ebert (2004 & 2005)
11. Eat, Pray, Love – Elizabeth Gilbert
12. The Dead Beat – Marilyn Johnson
13. Wherever You Go, There You Are – Jon Kabat-Zinn (1994)
14. Uncommon Carriers – John McPhee
15. Mayflower: A story of courage, community, and war – Nathaniel Philbrick
16. The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals – Michael Pollan
17. The Places In Between – Rory Stewart

POETRY

18. White Apples and the Taste of Stone: Selected Poems 1946-2006 – Donald Hall
19. Strong is Your Hold – Galway Kinnell

2005

FICTION

1. The Sea – John Banville
2. The Last Days of Dogtown – Anita Diamant
3. The March – E.L. Doctorow
4. Never Let Me Go – Kazuo Ishiguro
5. The Historian – Elizabeth Kostova
6. The History of Love – Nicole Krauss

NON-FICTION

7. The Year of Magical Thinking- Joan Didion
8. Education of a Coach – David Halberstam
9. 1776 – David McCullough
10. The Assassins' Gate: America in Iraq – George Packer
11. Garlic and Sapphires: the secret life of a critic in disguise – Ruth Reichl
12. The Glass Castle: a memoir – Jeannette Walls
13. Children's Hospital Boston: Images of America - editors

POETRY

14. The Poetry Home Repair Handbook – Ted Kooser
15. Monologue of a Dog – Wislawa Szymborska

2004

FICTION

1. The Rule of Four – Ian Caldwell & Dustin Thomason
2. Case Histories – Kate Atkinson
3. Little Children – Tom Perrotta
4. Runaway: stories – Alice Munro
5. My Sister's Keeper – Jodi Picoult
6. Double Play – Robert Parker

NON-FICTION

7. Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim – David Sedaris
8. Americans in Paris: A Literary Anthology – Adam Gopnik
9. Another Bullshit Night in Suck City: a Memoir – Nick Flynn
10. Gilgamesh: a New English Version – Stephen Mitchell
11. John James Audubon: the Making of an American – Richard Rhodes
12. Faithful – Stewart O’Nan & Stephen King
13. Founding Mothers: the Women who Raised our Nation – Cokie Roberts

POETRY

14. Delights & Shadows – Ted Kooser
15. New and Selected Poems – Mary Oliver

2003

FICTION

1. The Da Vinci Code – Dan Brown
2. Shutter Island – Dennis Lehane
3. The Namesake – Jhumpa Lahiri
4. The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time – Mark Haddon
5. The Time Traveler’s Wife – Audrey Niffenegger
6. Remember When – Nora Roberts & J.D. Robb
7. All the Way Home – Ann Tatlock
8. The Pleasure of My Company – Steve Martin

NON-FICTION

9. Benjamin Franklin: An American Life – Walter Isaacson
10. An Unfinished Life – Robert Dallek
11. Reading Lolita in Tehran: A memoir in books – Azar Nafisi
12. Best American Travel Writing [and the whole “Best American” series]
13. Moneyball – Michael Lewis

POETRY

14. Poetry 180: a turning back to poetry – Billy Collins, editor

~Remember, it never hurts to reread a book you loved years ago, or even as a child. Quite often, rereading a favorite will allow you to catch nuances and meanings you didn’t see the first time around. I have books I’ve read five or six times, and counting. And while some people cannot see the point in reading something twice, think of it as revisiting a garden you love, or that one vacation spot you go to year after year. The best things are always worth revisiting!