

TOP OF THE SHELF | COMMITTEE PICKS

JANUARY 2014

ADULT FICTION

Fever / Mary Beth Keane

Fever is a spectacularly bold and intriguing novel about the woman known as “Typhoid Mary,” the first person in America identified as a healthy carrier of Typhoid Fever.

On the eve of the twentieth century, Mary Mallon emigrated from Ireland at age fifteen to make her way in New York City. Brave, headstrong, and dreaming of being a cook, she fought to climb up from the lowest rung of the domestic-service ladder. She worked her way to the kitchen, and discovered in herself the true talent of a chef. Sought after by New York aristocracy, and with an independence rare for a woman of the time, she seemed to have achieved the life she’d aimed for when she arrived in Castle Garden. Then one determined “medical engineer” noticed that she left a trail of disease wherever she cooked, and identified her as an “asymptomatic carrier” of Typhoid Fever. With this seemingly preposterous theory, he made Mallon a hunted woman.

The Department of Health sent Mallon to North Brother Island, where she was kept in isolation from 1907 to 1910, then released under the condition that she never work as a cook again. Yet for Mary—proud of her former status and passionate about cooking—the alternatives were abhorrent. She defied the edict.

Bringing early-twentieth-century New York alive—the neighborhoods, the bars, the park carved out of upper Manhattan, the boat traffic, the mansions and sweatshops and emerging skyscrapers—Fever is an ambitious retelling of a forgotten life

The Inlet / Clarie Tham

A young female Chinese national drowns in a private swimming pool in a wealthy enclave on a resort island just off the Singapore mainland. The house where she is found belongs to one of the wealthiest property developers in Singapore.

The ripple effects on everyone affected by the incident – the investigating officer, the homeowner and his nephew, the girl’s family – are examined from their point of view. Based loosely on a true incident, *The Inlet* explores the social and cultural changes that have washed over Singapore society in recent years

The Orphan Train / Christina Baker Kline

Penobscot Indian Molly Ayer is close to “aging out” out of the foster care system. A community service position helping an elderly woman clean out her home is the only thing keeping Molly out of juvie and worse...

As she helps Vivian sort through her possessions and memories, Molly learns that she and Vivian aren’t as different as they seem to be. A young Irish immigrant orphaned in New York City, Vivian was put on a train to the Midwest with hundreds of other children whose destinies would be determined by luck and chance.

Molly discovers that she has the power to help Vivian find answers to mysteries that have haunted her for her entire life – answers that will ultimately free them both. Rich in detail and epic in scope, *Orphan Train* is a powerful novel of upheaval and resilience, of unexpected friendship, and of the secrets we carry that keep us from finding out who we are.

AUDIOS [ADULT]

Wilson / A. Scott Berg

One hundred years after his inauguration, Woodrow Wilson still stands as one of the most influential figures of the twentieth century, and one of the most enigmatic. And now, after more than a decade of research and writing, Pulitzer Prize-winning author A. Scott Berg has completed *Wilson*—the most personal and penetrating biography ever written about the twenty-eighth President. An intimate portrait of the scholar-President and the man of intense passion and turbulence, *Wilson* is written with a particularly contemporary point of view.

Where’d You Go, Bernadette: A Novel / Maria Semple

Bernadette Fox is notorious. To her husband, she’s a fearlessly opinionated partner; to fellow private-school mothers in Seattle, she’s a disgrace; to design mavens, she’s a revolutionary architect, and to 15-year-old Bee, she is a best friend and, simply, Mom. Bernadette’s intensifying allergy to Seattle—and people in general—has made her so agoraphobic that a virtual assistant in India now runs her most basic errands. Then Bernadette disappears. To find her mother, Bee compiles email messages, official documents, secret correspondence—creating a compulsively readable and touching novel about misplaced genius and a mother and daughter’s role in an absurd world.

Delivering Happiness: A Path to Profits, Passion and Purpose / Tony Hsieh

In *Delivering Happiness*, Tony Hsieh - the hip, iconoclastic, and widely-admired CEO of Zappos, the online shoe retailer - explains how he created a corporate culture with a commitment to service that aims to improve the lives of its employees, customers, vendors, and backers. Hsieh details many of the unique practices at Zappos, such as their philosophy of allocating marketing money into the customer experience, the importance of Zappos’s Core Values (“Deliver WOW through Service”), and his belief that once you get the culture right, everything else - great customer service, long-term branding - will happen on its own. Finally, *Delivering Happiness* explains how Zappos employees actually apply the Core Values to improving their lives outside of work, proving that creating happiness and record results go hand-in-hand.

A Dance with Dragons: A Song of Ice and Fire: Book Five / George R.R.,Dotrice Martin

In the aftermath of a colossal battle, the future of the Seven Kingdoms hangs in the balance once again—beset by newly emerging threats from every direction. From all corners, bitter conflicts soon re-ignite, intimate betrayals are perpetrated, and a grand cast of outlaws and priests, soldiers and skinchangers, nobles and slaves, will face seemingly insurmountable obstacles. Some will fail, others will grow in the strength of darkness. But in a time of rising restlessness, the tides of destiny and politics will lead inevitably to the greatest dance of all.

AUDIO BOOKS [CHILDREN]

Zen Shorts / Jon J. Muth

Three children meet Stillwater, a giant panda who moves into the neighborhood and tells amazing tales. To Addy he tells a story about the value of material

TOP OF THE SHELF | COMMITTEE PICKS

goods. To Michael he pushes the boundaries of good and bad. And to Karl he demonstrates what it means to hold on to frustration. With graceful art and simple stories that are filled with love and enlightenment, Jon Muth – and Stillwater the bear – present three ancient Zen tales that are sure to strike a chord in everyone they touch.

It's Me! / Eric Drachman

Drachman narrates the tale of Patricia, a preschooler with a big imagination and a penchant for dress up. Patricia appears to her family as a princess, witch, a little Mommy and finally a girl named Patricia. Everyone indulges her—except for the seemingly know-it-all brother, Danny. Humorous sound effects and Drachman's rich, friendly voice and playful storytelling style make this an enjoyable tale for young listeners.

CHILDREN

Come to School Too, Blue Kangaroo! / Emma Chichester Clark

Lily and Blue Kangaroo—a friendship forever! The eighth title in this popular series featuring Lily and her loveable soft toy sees the inseparable duo starting at a new school with surprising results. Lily thinks Blue Kangaroo is worried about going but, secretly, he can't wait to explore and try new things—which is just as well, because the fun lasts even longer than he expected...

The Energy Bus for Kids: A Story about Staying Positive and Overcoming Challenges / Jon Gordon

George is a regular kid having a bad day. He woke up sleepy, skipped breakfast, and then nearly missed his bus. But when Joy, the bus driver, puts on the brakes and invites him on board, his attitude starts to change. Joy helps George understand that he has the power to choose his attitude. If he believes in himself, has a positive vision for the future, and fuels his ride with positive energy, he'll find the strength to overcome any challenge.

In this illustrated adaptation of bestselling fable *The Energy Bus*, author Jon Gordon takes children on an enlightening and inspiring ride that will positively impact them at school and home. *The Energy Bus* shows kids how to overcome negativity, bullies, and everyday challenges to be their best and share their positive energy with others. When you get kids on the Energy Bus, you'll infuse their lives with vision, hope, love, and positivity.

The Dark / Lemony Snicket

Laszlo is afraid of the dark. The dark lives in the same house as Laszlo. Mostly, though, the dark stays in the basement and doesn't come into Laszlo's room. But one night, it does. This is the story of how Laszlo stops being afraid of the dark. With emotional insight and poetic economy, two award-winning talents—Snicket and Jon Klassen—team up to conquer a universal childhood fear.

Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs / Mo Willems

Once upon a time, there were three hungry Dinosaurs: Papa Dinosaur, Mama Dinosaur... and a Dinosaur who happened to be visiting from Norway. One day—for no particular reason—they decided to tidy up their house, make the beds, and prepare pudding of varying temperatures. And then—for no particular reason—they decided to go...someplace else. They were definitely not setting a trap for some succulent, unsupervised little girl. Definitely not! This new take on a fairy-tale classic is so funny and so original—it could only come from the brilliant mind of Mo Willems.

Penelope Crumb / Shawn K. Stout

Penelope Crumb is no ordinary fourth grader. And when she discovers that she *gasp* has a big nose, she's initially devastated. But when her mother lets her know that she has the same nose as her Grandpa, Penelope perks up. And then she perks up even more when she finds out that Grandpa isn't dead like she expected—he's just gone. And she decides that it's her job to find him. A sweet and funny story with tons of heart and high jinx about Penelope using her big nose to bring her family together.

Into the Wild (Warriors, Book 1) / Erin Hunter

For generations, four Clans of wild cats have shared the forest according to the laws laid down by the powerful ancestors. But the warrior code is threatened, and the ThunderClan cats are in grave danger. The sinister ShadowClan grows stronger every day. Noble warriors are dying – and some deaths are more mysterious than others. In the midst of this turmoil appears an ordinary housecat named Rusty...who may yet turn out to be the bravest warrior of them all.

FEBRUARY 2014

ADULT FICTION

The Invention of Wings / Sue Monk Kidd

Inspired by the true story of early-nineteenth-century abolitionist and suffragist Sarah Grimké, Kidd paints a moving portrait of two women inextricably linked by the horrors of slavery. Sarah, daughter of a wealthy South Carolina plantation owner, exhibits an independent spirit and strong belief in the equality of all. Thwarted from her dreams of becoming a lawyer, she struggles throughout life to find an outlet for her convictions. Handful, a slave in the Grimké household, displays a sharp intellect and brave, rebellious disposition. She maintains a compliant exterior, while planning for a brighter future.

Told in first person, the chapters alternate between the two main characters' perspectives, as we follow their unlikely friendship (characterized by both respect and resentment) from childhood to middle age. While their pain and struggle cannot be equated, both women strive to be set free—Sarah from the bonds of patriarchy and Southern bigotry, and Handful from the inhuman bonds of slavery. Kidd is a master storyteller, and, with smooth and graceful prose, she immerses the reader in the lives of these fascinating women as they navigate religion, family drama, slave revolts, and the abolitionist movement.

Five Star Billionaire / Tash Aw

Tash Aw draws a luminous portrait of four new, disparate arrivals to Shanghai: a venerable business woman, a pop star, a factory girl turned socialite, and an inheritor of his family real-estate, all of whose fates are tied to an elusive billionaire. Each character in this quartet has emigrated from Aw's own native Malaysia, seduced by the neon profile of metropolitan China, unknowingly -connected through Walter Chao, author of the eponymous *Secrets of a "Five Star Billionaire"*.

"Five Star Billionaire" is as much about people as it is about place: Shanghai represents the booming economic growth of China. It's a city of over 23 million people—some trying to make a name for themselves, others just trying to get by. By the end, "Five Star Billionaire" doesn't feel so foreign. The characters don't find personal fulfillment, but they're finally moving in the right direction. Aw reveals that the American Dream isn't so uniquely American as it is a byproduct of capitalism. Or perhaps it's a byproduct of the human condition: money becomes a way to quantify one's worth, to cure one's unhappiness. In such a big city, everything that matters is inward.

TOP OF THE SHELF | COMMITTEE PICKS

The Goldfinch / Donna Tartt

The goldfinch referred to in the title of Donna Tartt's dazzling new novel is a charming painting of a pet bird created in 1654 by the Dutch artist Carel Fabritius, whose "Goldfinch" is considered a small but priceless masterpiece of Dutch painting.

The narrator and hero of "The Goldfinch" is Theo Decker, 13 when we first meet him, a smart New York scholarship kid who lives alone with his mother. His heavy-drinking father, who abruptly left them was always so unreliable that Theo developed a lasting fear that his mother might not come home from work. Then, one day, everything changes: Theo and his mother are at the Metropolitan Museum of Art to see an exhibition featuring one of her favorite paintings — "The Goldfinch" — when a terrorist bomb explodes. Theo's mother is killed, and his life divides, forever, into a Before and After. In the confusion of the bomb's aftermath, Theo has a strange encounter with a delirious old man who begs Theo to save "The Goldfinch" from the burning wreckage and gives him a ring.

Soon, Theo is living on Park Avenue with the wealthy Barbour, while serving a kind of apprenticeship in antiques restoration. No sooner have the Barbour begun to provide Theo with the semblance of stability than his disreputable father resurfaces, and he quickly whisks Theo (who's packed "The Goldfinch" painting in his suitcase) away to his McMansion in the Vegas desert. It's clear that Theo is suffering post-traumatic stress disorder from the museum bombing and is still sick with grief over the loss of his mother — feelings only heightened by being plunked down in the lonely Nevada desert. His salvation is a new best friend named Boris: a funny, profane, street-smart kid who grew up in Australia, Russia and Ukraine and who will play Artful Dodger to Theo's Oliver Twist.

Back in New York, a snowballing series of events grow ever more dangerous as Theo becomes involved with violent criminals who covet "The Goldfinch" as much as he does. "The Goldfinch" is a beautiful, stay-up-all-night and tell-all-your-friends triumph, an old-fashioned story of loss and obsession, survival and self-invention, and the ruthless machinations of fate.

AUDIO BOOKS [ADULT]

The Unwinding: An Inner History of the New America / George Packer; Audio CD

A riveting examination of a nation in crisis, from one of the finest political journalists of our generation, The Unwinding portrays a superpower in danger of coming apart at the seams, its elites no longer elite, its institutions no longer working, its ordinary people left to improvise their own schemes for success and salvation. Packer's kaleidoscopic history of the new America tells the story of the United States over the past three decades in an utterly original way through the lives of several Americans. The Unwinding was the 2013 National Book Award Winner, A New York Times Bestseller, and one of Publishers Weekly's Best Nonfiction Books of 2013.

Sycamore Row / John Grisham; Audio CD

In Sycamore Row, John Grisham returns to the setting and the compelling characters that first established him as America's favorite storyteller. The listener returns to that famous courthouse in Clanton from A Time to Kill as Jake Brigance once again finds himself embroiled in a fiercely controversial trial — a trial that will expose old racial tensions and force Ford County to confront its tortured history. The story leaves no doubt that Grisham remains the master of the legal thriller.

The Luminaries / Eleanor Catton; MP3 CD

Winner of the 2013 Man Booker Prize, a breathtaking feat of storytelling where everything is connected, but nothing is as it seems... It is 1866, and Walter Moody has come to make his fortune upon the New Zealand goldfields. On the stormy night of his arrival, he stumbles across a tense gathering of twelve local men, who have met in secret to discuss a series of unsolved crimes. Moody is soon drawn into the mystery: a network of fates and fortunes that is as complex and exquisitely patterned as the night sky.

JUNIOR FICTION

Boy21 / Matthew Quick

Basketball has always been an escape for Finley. He lives in gray, broken Belmont, a town ruled by the Irish Mob, drugs, violence, and racially charged rivalries. At home, he takes care of his disabled grandfather, and at school he's called "White Rabbit", the only white kid on the varsity basketball team. He's always dreamed of getting away with his girlfriend, Erin. But until then the only thing that makes sense for him is when he puts on his number 21 to play. Russ has just moved to the neighborhood. A former teen basketball star from a privileged home, his life has been turned upside down by tragedy. Cut off from everyone he knows, he now answers only to the name Boy21—his former jersey number—and has an unusual obsession with outer space. As their final year of high school brings these two boys together, "Boy21" may turn out to be the answer they both need.

Beautiful Creatures (Castor Chronicles 1) / Kami Garcia

Lena Duchannes is unlike anyone the small Southern town of Gatlin has ever seen, and she's struggling to conceal her power and a curse that has haunted her family for generations. But even within the overgrown gardens, murky swamps and crumbling graveyards of the forgotten South, a secret cannot stay hidden forever. Ethan Wate, who has been counting the months until he can escape from Gatlin, is haunted by dreams of a beautiful girl he has never met. When Lena moves into the town's oldest and most infamous plantation, Ethan is inexplicably drawn to her and determined to uncover the connection between them. In a town with no surprises, one secret could change everything.

The Vindico / Wesley King.

The Vindico are a group of supervillains who have been fighting the League of Heroes for as long as anyone can remember. Realizing they're not as young as they used to be, they devise a plan to kidnap a group of teenagers and train them to take over for them when they retire—after all, how hard can it be to teach a bunch of angry teens to be evil?

JUNIOR NON FICTION

Chickens may not cross the road and other crazy (but true) laws / Kathi Linz & Tony Griego

It is against the law in Brooklyn, New York, for donkeys to sleep in bathtubs. In Idaho you are not allowed to fish while sitting on a giraffe. In California you must not keep slugs as pets. Yes, it's the law—says so right on the state or city books. Some of the most ludicrous laws in the history of our country come to light in this funny and fascinating book for people who have a special appreciation for the tyranny of silly rules.

Twenty-odd Ducks: Why, Every Punctuation Mark Counts! / Lynne Truss

Commas and apostrophes aren't the only punctuation marks that can cause big trouble if they're put in the wrong place. Now, Truss and Timmons put hyphens, parentheses, quotation marks, periods, and more in the spotlight, showing how which marks you choose and where you put them can cause hilarious mix-ups.

Special Effects Film and TV / Jake Hamilton (DK)

TOP OF THE SHELF | COMMITTEE PICKS

Lavish full-color spreads reveal the secrets behind Hollywood's special effects in this book, where actors fly, vanish, or turn into aliens through the use of pulley systems, blue-screen backgrounds, and elaborate make-up. Plenty of shots from well known movies (e.g., *The Borrowers*, *Lost in Space*) serve as cutting-edge examples, and show the crews on the sets of films, setting up snowstorms, helping puppets walk, and packing the punch into pyrotechnics. Perhaps most interesting of all is the discussion of Computer Generated imaging (CGI) and its eventual use in returning such stars as Marilyn Monroe to the big screen. There's plenty here for budding Hitchcocks and Spielbergs to unearth in the name of lights, camera, and special-effects action.

CHILDREN

Lucky Ducklings / Eva Moore

Early one morning, Mama Duck takes her babies for a walk. They follow safely behind her as they leave their pond, waddle through the park, and stop in the little sunlit town's parking lot for yummy breakfast. But one by one, Mama's little ducklings get separated when they disappear into the slats of the town's storm drain. How three firemen and a pickup truck rush to their rescue makes for a vivid and exciting drama that children will return to over and over again. Based on a true story, award-winning artist Nancy Carpenter and veteran author Eva Moore have created a delightful new classic with an inspiring environmental message.

Monkey and Robot by Peter Catalanotto

Monkey and Robot celebrate their friendship in this chapter book of four charming tales that are ideal for young readers. Monkey and Robot simply belong together, and it never matters that silly Monkey is furry, or that kind Robot can rust. What matters is their sharing: movies and popcorn, games of hide-and-seek, a fish tank for...a hippopotamus?

Penny and Her Doll / Kevin Henkes

When Penny receives a surprise box in the mail from Gram, she is thrilled. The surprise is a doll, and she is absolutely perfect, from her head to her toes. Penny loves her immediately. She introduces her new doll to Mama and to the babies and to Papa. But then Papa asks what the doll's name is, and Penny realizes that she doesn't know. How Penny decides on a name for her doll will appeal to children who need to find their own power, and trust in it.

John, Paul, George & Ben / Lane Smith

Once there were four lads...

John [Hancock],

Paul [Revere],

George [Washington],

and Ben [Franklin].

Oh yes, there was also Tom [Jefferson], but he was annoyingly independent and hardly ever around.

These lads were always getting into trouble for one reason or another. In other words, they took a few...liberties. And to be honest, they were not always appreciated. This is the story of five little lads before they became five really big Founding Fathers.

Alvin Ho: Allergic to Dead Bodies, Funerals, and Other Fatal Circumstances / Lenore Look

Here's the fourth book in the beloved and hilarious Alvin Ho chapter book series, which has been compared to *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*. Alvin, an Asian American second grader who's afraid of everything, is facing something truly scary: the idea that someone he loves might die. When Alvin's Gung Gung loses his best friend, Alvin (gulp) volunteers to go with him to the funeral. From Lenore Look and New York Times bestselling illustrator LeUyen Pham comes a drop-dead-funny and touching series—perfect for both beginning and reluctant readers—and a truly unforgettable character.

Waiting for Normal / Leslie Conner

Addie is waiting for normal. But Addie's mom has an all-or-nothing approach to life: a food fiesta or an empty pantry, jubilation or gloom, her way or no way. All or nothing never adds up to normal. All or nothing can't bring you all to home, which is exactly where Addie longs to be, with her half sisters, every day. In spite of life's twists and turns, Addie remains optimistic. Someday, maybe, she'll find normal.

Leslie Connor has created an inspiring novel about one girl's giant spirit.

TODDLERS

WHO IS PEPPA PIG?

Peppa Pig is a little piglet that lives with her brother, George, and her mom and dad. She has lots of friends from the animal kingdom, including the Rabbit family, the Cats, the Sheep, the Dogs and many other assorted animals. She even has a pet goldfish named Goldie.

Peppa Pig is a children's television program in which every episode is five minutes in length. In each program, Peppa has an adventure: she goes swimming, she rides on a train, and she goes to the playground. Peppa always has a very busy day!

Look for new books about Peppa in the Library:

1. Peppa Pig: Peppa's Busy Day
2. Peppa goes to the Library
3. Peppa Pig: Oink! Oink!
4. Peppa and the big train

MARCH 2014

ADULT FICTION

The Paris Architect / Charles Belfoure

In 1942 Paris, gifted architect Lucien Bernard accepts a commission that will bring him a great deal of money – and maybe get him killed. But if he's clever enough, he'll avoid any trouble. All he has to do is design a secret hiding place for a wealthy Jewish man, a space so invisible that even the most determined German officer won't find it. He sorely needs the money, and outwitting the Nazis who have occupied his beloved city is a challenge he can't resist.

But when one of his hiding spaces fails horribly, and the problem of where to hide a Jew becomes terribly personal, Lucien can no longer ignore what's at stake. *The Paris Architect* asks us to consider what we owe each other, and just how far we'll go to make things right.

TOP OF THE SHELF | COMMITTEE PICKS

The Lives of Tao / Wesley Chu

For Roen Tan, overweight IT technician, discontented with his life, it was first contact with an alien when Tao hitch hikes in his mind. But he soon finds out the aliens have been here all along, since the times of the Dinosaurs, symbiotically entwined and manipulating human's history throughout the centuries. Roen is thrown into the middle of a secret war between the Quasing (the better guys) and the Genjix (the worse guys, who don't particularly care if humans die if it means they get back to the home planet they've been cut off from).

But not only is he thrown into the war—he's thrown into the deep end, having to get in shape, learn how to actually fight and run, and be able to handle himself in delicate political situations (sometimes only somewhat successfully). Throughout all this, he also starts dating.

Under the Wide and Starry Sky / Nancy Horan

From the author of "Loving Frank", comes her much-anticipated second novel, which tells the improbable love story of Scottish writer Robert Louis Stevenson and his tempestuous American wife, Fanny.

At the age of thirty-five, Fanny Van de Griff Osbourne has left her philandering husband in San Francisco to set sail for Belgium—with her three children and nanny in tow—to study art. It is a chance for this adventurous woman to start over, to make a better life for all of them, and to pursue her own desires. Not long after her arrival, however, tragedy strikes, and Fanny and her children repair to a quiet artists' colony in France where she can recuperate. Emerging from a deep sorrow, she meets a lively Scot, Robert Louis Stevenson, ten years her junior, who falls instantly in love with the earthy, independent, and opinionated "belle Americaine."

Fanny does not immediately take to the slender young lawyer who longs to devote his life to writing—and who would eventually pen such classics as Treasure Island and The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. In time, though, she succumbs to Stevenson's charms, and the two begin a fierce love affair—marked by intense joy and harrowing darkness—that spans the decades and the globe. The shared life of these two strong-willed individuals unfolds into an adventure as impassioned and unpredictable as any of Stevenson's own unforgettable tales.

ADULT NON FICTION

The Smartest kids in the world and how they got that way / Amanda Ripley

What is it like to be a child in the world's new education superpowers? Author and Time magazine journalist Amanda Ripley follows three Americans embedded in these countries for one year. Kim, fifteen, raises \$10,000 so she can move from Oklahoma to Finland; Eric, eighteen, exchanges a high-achieving Minnesota suburb for a booming city in South Korea; and Tom, seventeen, leaves a historic Pennsylvania village for Poland.

Grain Brain: The Surprising Truth about Wheat, Carbs, and Sugar—Your Brain's Silent Killers Hardcover by David Perlmutter

Renowned neurologist David Perlmutter, MD, blows the lid off a topic that's been buried in medical literature for far too long: carbs are destroying your brain. He offers an in-depth look at how we can take control of our "smart genes" through specific dietary choices and lifestyle habits, demonstrating how to remedy our most feared maladies without drugs. With a revolutionary 4-week plan, GRAIN BRAIN teaches us how we can reprogram our genetic destiny for the better.

GRAIN BRAIN is a #1 New York Times bestseller and a finalist for a 2013 Books for a Better Life award.

The Human Magnet Syndrome: Why We Love People Who Hurt Us Paperback by Ross Rosenberg

Since the dawn of civilization, men and women have been magnetically and irresistibly drawn together into romantic relationships, not so much by what they see, feel and think, but more by invisible forces. Readers of the Human Magnet Syndrome will better understand why they, despite their dreams for true love, find themselves hopelessly and painfully in love with partners who hurt them. This book will guide and inspire both the layman and the professional.

JUNIOR FICTION

The 13 Curses by Michelle Harrison (#2 in the 13 Treasures Series)

When fairies stole her brother, Red vowed to get him back. Now trapped in the fairy realm, she begs an audience with the fairy court where she strikes a bargain. Her brother will be returned - but only if she can complete a task set by the court. In a world of trickery and deception, Red is about to find that not all is as it seems. For even if she succeeds, will the fairies keep their promise?

Shooting Kabul / N.H. Senzai

In the summer of 2001, twelve year old Fadi's parents make the difficult decision to illegally leave Afghanistan and move the family to the United States. When their underground transport arrives at the rendezvous point, chaos ensues, and Fadi's little sister Mariam becomes lost in the crowd, just as Fadi is snatched up into the truck. With Taliban soldiers closing in, the truck speeds away, leaving Mariam behind. Adjusting to life in the United States isn't easy for Fadi's family and as the events of September 11th unfold the prospects of locating Mariam in a war torn Afghanistan seem slim. When a photography competition with a grand prize trip to India is announced, Fadi sees his chance to return to Afghanistan and find his sister. But can one photo really bring Mariam home?

Invisible City / M.G.Harris

Joshua's life was pretty cool - until his father was reported dead in an air crash in Mexico.

Was it simply a tragic accident? Why was the plane miles off course? Were there really UFOs in the sky at the time of the crash?

In the depths of the Mexican jungle, with a deadly international hit man on his trail, Josh must find the truth about an incredible, dangerous secret - and try to stay alive.

JUNIOR NON FICTION

A look at the newest DK Eyewitness Books in our collection

ROBOT

Take a detailed look at the fascinating world of robots - from the earliest single-task machines to the advanced intelligence of robots with feelings. Readers will be amazed to learn all that robots can do: perform delicate surgical operations, clean city sewers, work as museum tour guides, or even battle each other in combat!

TOP OF THE SHELF | COMMITTEE PICKS

First Ladies

First Ladies is an updated edition of DK's classic look at America's first ladies in addition to the CD, wall chart, and extra 8 pages, the book will be updated to include information about the first lady who moves into the White House in 2009, Michelle Obama.

Treasure

Find out how the things that we consider as treasures were created, used, lost, and finally uncovered by explorers and scientists. This book takes a look at the wide variety of precious objects that have been the seeds of greed, conquest, crime, and adventure over the history of humankind.

CHILDREN

Little Tug / Stephen Savage

Little Tug may not be very tall or very fast, but when the big ships in the harbor need help, they know they can count on him to be there with a push, a pull, and a ride to safety. But what happens when Little Tug gets tired?

This simple, endearing book with a charming retro feel and an emotional punch is the first book for Roaring Brook Press by the acclaimed author of *Polar Bear Night* (New York Times Best Illustrated book) and *Where's Walrus?*

Paw Prints on the Magic Sofa / Sarah Mounsey

Bump, bump, bumpity, bump! Eddie's sofa is so much fun that all the animals jump right on as they travel around the world! Eddie, William and Oscar go on a magical journey that is perfect for inspiring a child's imagination.

Mr. Tiger Goes Wild / Peter Brown

Are you bored with being so proper?

Do you want to have more fun?

Mr. Tiger knows exactly how you feel. So he decides to go wild. But does he go too far?

From Caldecott Honor artist Peter Brown comes a story that shows there's a time and place for everything ...even going wild.

The Green Bath / Margaret Mahy

Margaret Mahy and Steven Kellogg, two of the world's most beloved picture book creators, are reunited for this galloping, free-spirited romp. It begins with Sammy, whose obnoxious neighbors get to go to the beach in their brand new boat, while he has to get clean for a visit from grandma. Worse, it's a bath in the strange tub his dad just bought at a tag sale! But the magic of the tub soon has Sammy roaring out to sea, befriendng a giant sea serpent, conquering pirates in a huge soapy battle, and returning home with the greatest of treasures. Bath time will never be the same!

Who Put the Cookies in the Cookie Jar? / George Shannon

It's easy to take a cookie out of the cookie jar: just reach in. But how does it get in there in the first place? It's more complicated than you might think. Someone has to milk the cow, grow the wheat, harvest the sugar cane—everyone has a special job to do to make that cookie possible.

George Shannon and Julie Paschkis take us on a delicious cookie journey, showing how many hands work together so that one hand can take the cookie out—and so that you can take a huge yummy bite!

Lulu and the Dog From the Sea by Hilary McKay

Lulu loves animals. When Lulu goes on vacation, she finds there's a stray dog living on the beach. Everyone in the town thinks the dog is trouble. But Lulu is sure he just needs a friend. And that he's been waiting for someone just like her. This is the second book in this early chapter book series for young animal-lovers.

Wonderstruck / Brian Selznick

Winner of the 2012 Children's Choice Book Award for Illustrator of the Year

Winner of the 2012 Schneider Family Middle School Book Award

Ben and Rose secretly wish their lives were different. Ben longs for the father he has never known. Rose dreams of a mysterious actress whose life she chronicles in a scrapbook. When Ben discovers a puzzling clue in his mother's room and Rose reads an enticing headline in the newspaper, both children set out alone on desperate quests to find what they are missing.

Set fifty years apart, these two independent stories—Ben's told in words, Rose's in pictures—weave back and forth with mesmerizing symmetry. How they unfold and ultimately intertwine will surprise you, challenge you, and leave you breathless with wonder. Rich, complex, affecting, and beautiful—with over 460 pages of original artwork—*Wonderstruck* is a stunning achievement from a uniquely gifted artist and visionary.

APRIL 2014

ADULT FICTION

Still Life with Bread Crumbs by Anna Quindlen

Rebecca Winter was once a famous photographer, and, with any luck, she will be again. Having achieved surprising early success with her feminist "Kitchen Counter" collection, Rebecca, now 60, finds herself on fame and fortune's flip side. With her former torrent of royalties dwindling to a trickle, Rebecca has been forced to give up her perfect Manhattan apartment for a paltry upstate cabin, and with marauding raccoons, stray dogs, and trigger-happy hunters, life in the country is proving to be no walk in Central Park. Luckily, Rebecca still has her camera, and she soon finds inspiration for new work in unexpected places, often in the company of a bird-watching roofer named Jim, whose quiet companionship proves to be just the balm she needs to fully embrace her unfamiliar surroundings.

Brilliantly written, powerfully observed, *Still Life with Bread Crumbs* is a deeply moving and often very funny story of unexpected love, and a stunningly crafted journey into the life of a woman, her heart, her mind, her days, as she discovers that life is a story with many levels, a story that is longer and more exciting than she ever imagined.

Big Brother by Lionel Shriver

Big Brother is a striking novel about siblings, marriage, and obesity from Lionel Shriver, the acclaimed author of the international bestseller "We Need to Talk About Kevin".

For Pandora, cooking is a form of love. Alas, her husband, Fletcher, a self-employed high-end cabinetmaker, now spurns the "toxic" dishes that he'd savored

TOP OF THE SHELF | COMMITTEE PICKS

through their courtship, and spends hours each day to manic cycling. Then, when Pandora picks up her older brother Edison at the airport, she doesn't recognize him. In the years since they've seen one another, the once slim, hip New York jazz pianist has gained hundreds of pounds. What happened? After Edison has more than overstayed his welcome, Fletcher delivers his wife an ultimatum: It's him or me.

Rich with Shriver's distinctive wit and ferocious energy, "Big Brother" is about fat: an issue both social and excruciatingly personal. It asks just how much sacrifice we'll make to save single members of our families, and whether it's ever possible to save loved ones from themselves.

The Wife, the Maid, and the Mistress by Ariel Lawhon

They say behind every great man, there's a woman. In this case, there are three. Stella Crater, the judge's wife, is the picture of propriety draped in long pearls and the latest Chanel. Ritzi, a leggy showgirl with Broadway aspirations, thinks moonlighting in the judge's bed is the quickest way off the chorus line. Maria Simon, the dutiful maid, has the judge to thank for her husband's recent promotion to detective in the NYPD. Meanwhile, Judge Crater is equally indebted to Tammany Hall leaders and the city's most notorious gangster, Owney "The Killer" Madden.

On a sultry summer night, as rumors circulate about the judge's involvement in wide-scale political corruption, the Honorable Joseph Crater steps into a cab and disappears without a trace. Or does he?

After 39 years of necessary duplicity, Stella Crater is finally ready to reveal what she knows, and begins to tell a tale—of greed, lust, and deceit. As the novel unfolds and the women slyly break out of their prescribed roles, it becomes clear that each knows more than she has initially let on.

AUDIO BOOKS [ADULT]

Things That Matter: Three Decades of Passions, Pastimes and Politics Audiobook CD – Audiobook, Unabridged by Charles Krauthammer (Author, Reader) , George Newbern (Reader)

Charles Krauthammer is a preeminent American columnist, named by the Financial Times as the most influential commentator in the nation, writes a weekly column which is a must-read in Washington and across the country. Readers will find in Things That Matter the country's leading conservative thinker exhibiting a highly independent mind whose views—on feminism, evolution and the death penalty, for example—defy ideological convention. Krauthammer uses intelligence, erudition, and wit to reflect on the events that shaped his career and political philosophy. The chronicle takes the reader on a fascinating journey through the fashions and follies, the tragedies and triumphs, of the last three decades of American life.

The Good Lord Bird: A Novel Audiobook CD – Audiobook by James McBride (Author) , Michael Boatman (Reader)

A slave in Kansas is mistaken for a girl due to the sackcloth smock he was wearing when Brown shot his master. The light-skinned, curly-haired 12-year-old ends up living as a young woman, most often encamped with Brown's renegade band of freedom warriors as they traverse the country, raising arms and ammunition for their battle against slavery. Though they travel to Rochester, New York, to meet with Frederick Douglass and Canada to enlist the help of Harriet Tubman, Brown and his ragtag army fail to muster sufficient support for their mission to liberate African Americans, heading inexorably to the infamously bloody and pathetic raid on Harpers Ferry. Dramatizing Brown's pursuit of racial freedom and insane belief in his own divine infallibility through the eyes of a child fearful of becoming a man, McBride's The Good Lord Bird presents a historical novel with ironic humor. Winner of the 2013 National Book Award for Fiction; A Washington Post, Publishers Weekly, and Oprah Magazine Top 10 Book of the Year.

Decisive: How to Make Better Choices in Life and Work Audiobook CD – Audiobook, Unabridged by Chip Heath (Author) , Dan Heath (Author) , Kaleo Griffith (Reader)

Decisions are disrupted by an array of biases and irrationalities: overconfidence; seeking out information that supports and downplaying information that doesn't; and short-term emotions. Merely being aware of these tendencies doesn't fix the problem, any more than knowing that we are nearsighted helps us to see. In Decisive, the Heath brothers, based on an exhaustive study of the decision-making literature, introduce a four-step process designed to counteract these biases. Written in an engaging and compulsively readable style, the audiobook takes readers on an unforgettable journey.

JUNIOR FICTION

The Hollow by Jessica Verday

When Abbey's best friend, Kristen, vanishes at the bridge near Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, everyone else is all too quick to accept that Kristen is dead...and rumors fly that her death was no accident. Abbey refuses to believe that Kristen is really gone. Then she meets Caspian, the gorgeous and mysterious boy who shows up out of nowhere at Kristen's funeral and keeps reappearing in Abbey's life. Caspian clearly has secrets of his own, but he's the only person who makes Abbey feel normal again as well as special. Just when Abbey starts to feel that she might survive all this, she learns a secret that makes her question everything she thought she knew about her best friend. How could Kristen have kept silent about so much? And could this secret have led to her death?

Prada and Prejudice by Mandy Hubbard

Fifteen-year-old Callie buys a pair of real Prada pumps to impress the cool crowd on a school trip to London. Goodbye, Callie the clumsy geek-girl, hello popularity! But before she knows what's hit her, Callie wobbles, trips, conks her head...and wakes up in the year 1815! She stumbles about until she meets the kind-hearted Emily, who takes Callie in, mistaking her for a long-lost friend. Sparks soon fly between Callie and Emily's cousin, Alex, the maddeningly handsome - though totally arrogant - Duke of Harksbury. Too bad he seems to have something sinister up his ruffled sleeve...

Zoe and Chloe: On the Prowl by Sue Limb

Zoe and Chloe need escorts for the forthcoming Ball, and one thing's certain: they're definitely not going to go with their mates Fergus and Toby who are simply not dreamboat material. Zoe yearns hopelessly for glamorous Oliver Wyatt. Chloe gets swept off her feet by dangerous Beast Hawkins. More realistically, they also advertise for young men to help with an "exciting project". Zoe, everybody's minder, also has to help her older sister Tam out of a serious fix. There are some excruciating interviews with various boys who have replied to their ad. Alas, the boys who have applied bring a heap of problems with them... Zoe and Chloe are at their wits' end, when suddenly, out of left field, an amazing solution appears. The experience is mind-blowingly liberating.

JUNIOR NON FICTION

The Most Stupendous Atlas of the Whole Wide World by the Brainwaves (DK) by Ralph Lazar

TOP OF THE SHELF | COMMITTEE PICKS

This book offers a funny and fascinating look at the countries of the world. Meet the Brainwaves, hilarious little mischief-makers who are about to take you on an amazing journey around the world to discover everything about our planet. These pint-sized pals show what the planet is made of, where the highest football stadium is and why Brazil is called Brazil, amongst other amazing things. Packed with fantastic fold-out pages with mad maps, perfect pull-outs and fabulous facts on places and people, you will learn loads of stuff about climate, oceans and Earth in space.

How stuff works by Marshall Brain

How Stuff Works is a lavish, full-colour, highly visual resource for those with hungry minds who crave an understanding of the way things work around them—from submarine ships to digital technology to toilets. With over 1,000 illustrations and photos showing step-by-step images, these easy-to-understand explanations cover the most popular and interesting subject areas, including Technology, Science, Health, Fitness, Transportation, and more. Sample topics include: How CDs Work, How Car Engines Work, and How Nuclear Radiation and Power Work.

PlanetWatch by Blue Peter (DK)

We live in a beautiful environment, but it is a changing and fragile place that needs looking after. How is it being altered? Why are these things happening? And what can we all do to help protect it? In this book you will take a look at our world so you can learn what can be done to preserve our environment for generations to come. Discover how oceans and animal life are affected by climate change and find out what the future holds for the food we eat, the air we breathe and the land we live on.

AUDIO BOOKS [CHILDREN]

Leo the Lightning Bug (with Audio CD) [Hardcover] by Eric Drachman (Author) James Muscarello (Author)

Leo is an enchanting little character who endears himself to young and old readers alike. Adults will be right there pulling for him to learn how to light up the night, just as children will. The listener will commiserate with Leo when his friends tease him and will be joyful when he practices until he finally gets it right. Leo the Lightning Bug wins listeners hearts as Leo gains self-confidence in his struggle to make his very own light.

Alice in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass [Audiobook, CD, Unabridged] [Audio CD] Lewis Carroll (Author)

(Author), Shelly Frasier (Narrator), Renée Raudman (Narrator)

Lewis Carroll conjured up Alice in Wonderland one afternoon in 1862 to entertain young Alice Liddell, the daughter of the local church dean. A century and a half later, the original Alice and its sequel, Through the Looking Glass, are still entertaining children and adults alike. Full of nonsense and whimsical characters, sparkling word play, puzzles, and riddles, these audios also offer poignant moments of nostalgia for lost childhood. Classic, delightful audiobook for ages 8 and up.

CHILDREN

Good News, Bad News by Jeff Mack

Good news, Rabbit and Mouse are going on a picnic. Bad news, it is starting to rain. Good news, Rabbit has an umbrella. Bad news, the stormy winds blow the umbrella (and Mouse!) into a tree.

So begins this clever story about two friends with very different dispositions. Using just four words, Jeff Mack has created a text with remarkable flair that is both funny and touching, and pairs perfectly with his energetic, and hilarious, illustrations.

Good news, this is a book kids will clamor to read again and again!

The Three Little Pigs and the Somewhat Bad Wolf by Mark Teague

Award-winning author and illustrator Mark Teague tells his humorous version of "The Three Little Pigs" with a zany twist!

Three pigs spend their money on different things: potato chips, sody-pop, and building supplies. It comes as no surprise that a wolf is able to blow down the first two pigs' houses. When the wolf can't blow down the third pig's brick house, everyone comes together and the fun begins. The first two pigs give him potato chips and sody-pop, and the third pig makes everyone a healthy meal. Since only one pig has a house left, the other two pigs and the wolf move in with her. The somewhat bad wolf is no longer hungry.

Nurse Clementine by Simon James

It's Clementine Brown's birthday, and Mr. and Mrs. Brown have given her a nurse's outfit and a first-aid kit just what she wanted! There is no shortage of "emergencies" that need her attention. Nurse Clementine sets to work, bandaging Mom and Dad—even the family dog! But her brother, Tommy, is a different matter. Even though he keeps crashing into things, he insists that he doesn't need a nurse. Clementine is sad—nurses really need someone to help. But could it be that when a real emergency occurs, her skills will be needed?

The First Drawing by Mordicai Gerstein

Imagine you were born before the invention of drawing, more than thirty thousand years ago. You would live with your whole family in a cave and see woolly mammoths walk by!

You might even see images of animals hidden in the shapes of clouds and rocks. You would want to share these pictures with your family, but wouldn't know how. Who would have made the world's first drawing? Would it have been you?

In The First Drawing, Caldecott Medal winner Mordicai Gerstein imagines the discovery of drawing...and inspires the young dreamers and artists of today.

Kelsey Green, Reading Queen by Claudia Mills (Book 1 of the Franklin School Friends series)

Kelsey Kline is the best reader in the third grade—well, maybe tied for best with know-it-all Simon Ellis. When the principal Mr. Boone announces a school-wide reading contest, complete with a pizza party for the winning class and a special certificate for the top readers in each grade, she knows she's just the person to lead Mrs. Molina's third graders to victory. But how can they win when her classmate Cody Harmon doesn't want to read anything, and even Kelsey's best friends, Annika and Izzy, don't live up to her expectations? And could Simon possibly be reading all of those books that he claims he is, or is he lying to steal

TOP OF THE SHELF | COMMITTEE PICKS

Kelsey's rightful spot at the top?

The Great Unexpected by Sharon Creech

Humorous and heartfelt, this is a story of pairs—of young Naomi and Lizzie, both orphans in present-day Blackbird Tree, USA, and of Sybil and Nula, grown-up sisters from faraway Rook's Orchard, Ireland, who have become estranged.

Young Naomi Deane is brimming with curiosity and her best friend, Lizzie Scatterding, could talk the ears off a cornfield. Naomi has a knack for being around when trouble happens. She knows all the peculiar people in town—like Crazy Cora and Witch Wiggins. But then, one day, a strangely charming Finn boy drops out of a tree. Just like that. And then the Dingle Dangle man appears, asking all kinds of questions. Curious surprises are revealed—three locked trunks, a pair of rooks, a crooked bridge, and that boy—and soon Naomi and Lizzie find their lives changed forever.

Audio books are very entertaining for kids. They are a great resource for teaching and learning a language to any age group from kids to adults. You can listen to them in a car or at home while enjoying other activities. My kids like to draw and listen to fairy tales and children's stories when they are broadcasted on children's radio or as audiobooks. Here are links to 19 great websites that are offering kids' audio books for free : 1. Storynory. Children's Free Audio Books. Welcome to Audio Book Treasury's Children's collection where you can listen to books online free. We look forward to bringing you the best audio books and mp3 downloads available in the public domain. A Cousin's Conspiracy by Horatio Alger, Jr. (Free Audio Book). A Little Princess by Frances Hodgson Burnett (Free Audio Book). Adventures of Maya the Bee by Walemar Bonsels (Free Audio Book). Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll (Free Audio Book).