

Adult Winter Reading Recommendations 2017-18

Selected by WPL Librarians



Sargent's Women by Donna Lucy

Describes the lives of four high-society women immortalized in portraits by John Singer Sargent and who experienced numerous mysteries, passions, and tragedies during the Gilded Age.

Morningstar: Growing Up with Books by Ann Hood

The author of *The Book That Matters Most* reveals the personal stories behind her written works, describing her early years in a Rhode Island mill town and the books that shaped her love of literature, her political views and her travel ambitions.

Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood by Trevor Noah

The host of "The Daily Show With Trevor Noah" traces his wild coming of age during the twilight of apartheid in South Africa and the tumultuous days of freedom that followed, offering insight into the farcical aspects of today's political and social systems.

A Square Meal: A Culinary History of the Great Depression by Jane Ziegelman and Andrew Coe

The author of *97 Orchard* and her culinary historian husband present an in-depth exploration into the Depression-era food crisis and how it indelibly shaped American attitudes about utilitarian cuisine, government-sponsored charities and processed food.

Conscience of a Conservative: A Rejection of Destructive Politics and a Return to Principle by Jeff Flake

Republican Senator Jeff Flake takes his party to task for embracing nationalism, populism, xenophobia, and the anomalous Trump presidency. An urgent call for a return to bedrock conservative principle and once again put country before party.

Get What's Yours for Medicare: Maximize Your Coverage, Minimize Your Costs by Phillip Moeller

Shares advice for saving money and maximizing health coverage through Medicare, explaining the essentials of signing up, understanding what it costs, and selecting which plans are most appropriate.

Join us for *Popular Reads Café*

Tuesdays, December 12, January 9 & February 13
3 - 4 p.m. in the Main Library - Banx Room

Join us for spirited discussions of popular fiction and non-fiction books, and find out what's recently been published by your favorite authors! Local authors may be featured. Refreshments provided by the Friends of WPL.



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Fiction

Bonfire by Krysten Ritter

The star of Marvel's *Jessica Jones* presents a novel of psychological suspense in which a successful environmental lawyer is forced to confront her small-town past while investigating a high-profile corruption case back home.



My Absolute Darling by Gabriel Tallent

A transcendent debut novel that combines a page-turning female survival story, an arresting use of language, and a heart-wrenchingly powerful redemptive arc.



Little Sister by Barbara Gowdy

Experiencing disturbing dreams about being in another woman's body during a summer thunderstorm outbreak, Rose discovers from her dementia-patient mother the existence and traumatic story of her late younger sister.



A Dog's Way Home by W. Bruce Cameron

Traces the story of an adorable dog who falls instantly in love with a VA, worker only to be separated from him by rules that disallow pitbulls in their Denver community, a situation that compels the puppy to travel 400 miles back to the person she loves.



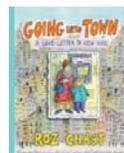
Since We Fell by Dennis Lehane

Retreating from the world in the aftermath of a traumatizing reporting assignment, Rachel finds happiness with a raffish businessman before witnessing activities surrounding a conspiracy that tests the limits of her fragile psyche.



Going Into Town: A Love Letter to New York by Roz Chast

An uproarious graphic-novel tribute to Manhattan that reflects on the culture clash between her rural-raised children and herself, sharing zany and occasionally practical advice on subjects ranging from sidewalk gum wads to navigating honeycombed grids.



No One is Coming to Save Us by Stephanie Powell Watts

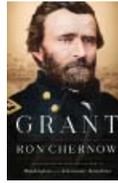
A tale inspired by *The Great Gatsby* is set in the contemporary South and follows the difficulties endured by an extended black family with colliding visions of the American dream.



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Non-Fiction

Grant by Ron Chernow



A meticulously researched portrait of the complicated Civil War general and 18th President, challenging the views of his critics while sharing insights into his prowess as a military leader, the honor with which he conducted his administration and the rise and fall of his fortunes.

The Little Old Lady Who Broke All the Rules by Catherine Ingelman Sundberg

Fed up when the new management of their retirement home begins cutting corners, a group of seniors begins a life of white collar crime and plot to carry out a complex, untraceable heist at the National Museum.

Wit: A Play by Margaret Edson

The Pulitzer Prize-winning drama explores the role of nurses in the care of terminally ill patients, as Professor Vivian Bearing endures eight months of experimental chemotherapy in a grueling effort to fight ovarian cancer.

The Potlikker Papers: A Food History of the Modern South by John T. Edge

An exploration of Southern cuisine reveals how culinary traditions of the rural, poor South became a keystone of contemporary American cuisine.

Jane, Unlimited by Kristin Cashore

Looking for direction after the loss of her guardian aunt, Jane accepts an unexpected invitation to an island mansion gala, where she considers five choices that will determine the course of her life.

Bored and Brilliant: How Spacing Out Can Unlock Your Most Productive and Creative Self by Manoush Zomorodi

The podcaster and radio host argues that boredom is essential in making lives happier and more productive, and includes exercises for bringing about critical thinking.

The Red Threads of Fortune by JY Yang

Fallen prophet, daughter of the supreme Protector, Sanao has abandoned the life that once bound her. Broken by the loss of her young daughter, she now hunts deadly naga in the outer reaches of the kingdom with dinosaurs at her side, far from everything she used to love.

Hunger: A Memoir of (My) Body by Roxane Gay

The author reflects on her emotional and psychological struggles to explore women's anxieties over consumption, appearance, and health.

Clockwork Dynasty by Daniel Wilson

A young anthropologist specializing in ancient technology makes the astonishing discovery that a race of human-like machines has been hiding among people for untold centuries.

Lemons and Limes: 75 Bright and Zesty Ways to Enjoy Cooking with Citrus by Ursula Ferrigno

A glorious selection of dishes that all celebrate the unique sharp and aromatic burst of lemons and limes. From fresh seafood to luxurious pasta and heavenly desserts—these citrus fruits can make your food sing.

The Cuban Affair by Nelson DeMille

When his shaky finances compel him to accept a lucrative job for a 10-day fishing tournament to Cuba, Army combat veteran-turned-charter boat captain Mac learns that one of his clients is seeking to claim millions hidden by her grandfather, who was forced to flee Castro's revolution years earlier.

What We Do Now: Standing Up for Your Values in Trump's America by Dennis Johnson and Valerie Merians

This collection of essays by progressive leaders suggest actual strategies on how to move forward in resistance to a Trump administration.

Manhattan Beach by Jennifer Egan

Years after she is placed in the hands of a stranger vital to her family's survival, Anna takes a job at the Brooklyn Naval Yard during the war while meeting with the man who helped them and learning important truths about her father's disappearance.

He's Not Laxy: Empowering Your Son to Believe in Himself by Adam Price, Ph.D.

Boys may seem impervious to school pressures, but they often fear failure so much that they totally opt out. An expert on ADHD explains how to deal with a conflicted boy who wants to do well, discover hidden obstacles to his success, develop his confidence, and empower him to accept responsibility for his own future.

The Lucky Ones by Julianne Pacheco

Taking place between 1993 and 2018 in Colombia and New York City, a prismatic tale of characters whose lives intersect in often unexpected ways and whose stories, taken together, provide a lens on the intensity of life in Colombia during the violent years of guerrilla insurgencies and corruption.

The River of Consciousness by Oliver Sacks

A collection of essays reflecting the author's passionate engagement with compelling and seminal ideas of human endeavor, from evolution and creativity to memory and consciousness.