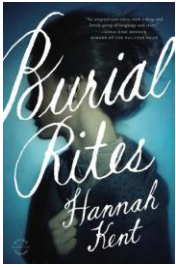


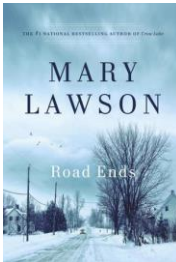
## Lindsay Tyler, CNIB Library

### Burial Rites by Hannah Kent



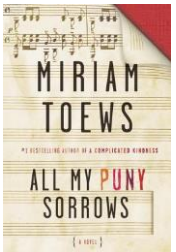
From the few facts known about Agnes Magnúsdóttir, the last woman executed in Iceland, Hannah Kent constructs a whole world. After her trial, Agnes is sent to await death on a remote farm belonging to a local official where she lives as a servant. Geraldine Brooks mentored Kent, and Brooks' historical novels are good choices for those who enjoy *Burial Rites*. *Alias Grace* by Margaret Atwood also recalls both the tone and subject matter of this novel.

### Road Ends by Mary Lawson



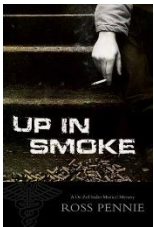
This story focuses on the troubles of the Cartwright family, especially siblings Tom and Megan and their father Edward. The characters, particularly Megan, are persuasive and the impact of the situation on the siblings is moving. *Road Ends* reminded me of *We were the Mulvaneys* by Joyce Carol Oates – both stories of families, but especially siblings, and the rippling impact a tragic event can have.

### All My Puny Sorrows by Miriam Toews



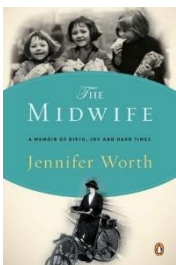
Miriam Toews novels all seem to balance on the edge of humour and despair, and this story of a brilliant mentally ill woman, Elf, and her sister Yoli is no exception. While suicide and mental illness are central to the story, its heart is the relationship between the sisters. For another story of profound connection between sisters with both sadness and humour, read *The Girls* by Lori Lansens.

### Up in Smoke by Ross Pennie



This is the third in the Zol Szabo medical mystery series. Dr. Szabo is faced with teens and firefighters dying of liver failure. His investigation leads him to the local illicit tobacco industry. While the subject matter is similar to medical thrillers by Robin Cook or Tess Gerritsen, the likeable characters and descriptions of delicious meals reminded me of Louise Penny.

### Call The Midwife: a memoir of birth, joy & hard times by Jennifer Worth



In this memoir, Jennifer Worth tells the remarkable stories of the women she worked with as a midwife in London's gritty East End in the 1950s. The business of pregnancy and birth is central, but these are not sweet vignettes of motherhood. Worth reflects on issues of women's rights and poverty while depicting the fascinating characters she knew. Though James Herriott's books are set in a gentler locale and his patients are animals, both he and Worth tell touching stories of characters encountered through their professional practice

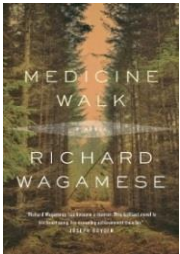
## Melanie Kindrachuk, Stratford Public Library

### Little Bastards in Springtime by Katja Rudolph



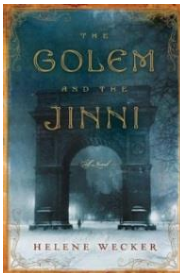
Told in three parts – during the Civil War in Sarajevo, then in Toronto, and on to a road trip through the USA – this story of a young man's survival is intense and hard-hitting. It addresses the effects of war on civilians caught in the middle, and what happens when peace is restored. *Pretty Birds* by Scott Simon also gives a teenager's perspective of the Bosnian civil war, this time a female sniper's view. For a look at a young man's journey from civil war in Sudan to a new life in America, try Dave Eggers' *What is the What*.

### Medicine Walk by Richard Wagamese



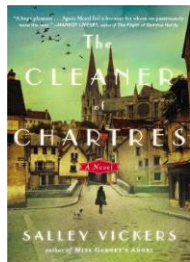
This modern Western is destined to become a classic. Taking the strained relationship of father and son as a starting point, it also highlights aboriginal concerns, within a beautifully drawn setting in the BC mountains. Wagamese's previous novel *Indian Horse* covers some of the same ground, while Louise Erdrich's *The Round House* is another exquisitely written novel, featuring a young aboriginal man whose relationship with his parents and his culture is forever changed after a terrible crime.

### Golem and the Jinni by Helene Wecker



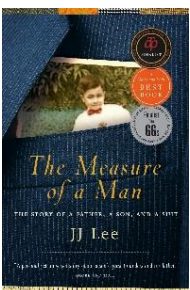
A jinni from Arabia and a golem from Eastern Europe end up in turn of the century New York, where they must learn to negotiate a modern existence. By creating a friendship between two imaginary creatures made all too real, Wecker takes on themes of identity and belonging. Another tale of a jinni in the modern world, in an interface with a computer hacker, can be found in the speculative novel *Alif the Unseen* by G. Willow Wilson. For those interested in turn-of-the-century New York with a sprinkling of magical realism, Alice Hoffman's *Museum of Extraordinary Things* may satisfy.

### Cleaner of Chartres by Salley Vickers



Agnes Morel has a mysterious past, one that she has kept hidden for the years that she's lived in Chartres, working as a cleaner for both private citizens and the great Cathedral of Chartres. But now one of her clients is fixated on uncovering her dark secret...and Agnes' life begins to unravel. This book evokes the atmosphere of similar titles set in rural France, like those by Joanne Harris (*Chocolat*, *Peaches for Monsieur le Curé*), while Ulrica Hume's *An Uncertain Age* also centres around Chartres and delves into its mysterious esoteric past.

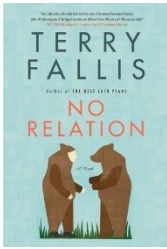
### Measure of a Man by JJ Lee



This memoir is nominally about Lee's attempts to tailor one of his late father's suits to fit him, and in the process, mend his damaged memories of his mercurial father. But not just memoir, this book talks about actual suits, and their meaning in a man's life. It's a fascinating blend of personal and professional, perfect for the wide-ranging reader. For another Canadian memoir of fraught relationships between father and son, try musician Dan Hill's *I Am My Father's Son*. If it's more on suits and men's fashion that appeals, try *Bespoke: Savile Row Ripped and Smoothed* by Richard Anderson, a tailor whom JJ Lee interviewed for this book.

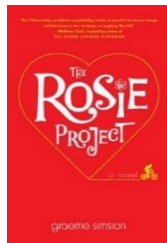
## Andrea Dunn, Markham Public Library

### No Relation by Terry Fallis



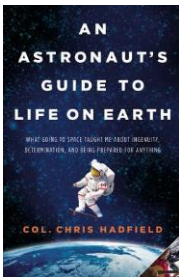
Earnest Hemmingway has just been fired, dumped, and mugged but his day gets worse when a video of a breakdown at the DMV goes viral. A hilarious, heartwarming tale of how famous names can affect regular people and families. Cecilia Ahern's *One Hundred Names* is a humorous story of how complete strangers can become friends.

### Rosie Project- Graeme Simsion



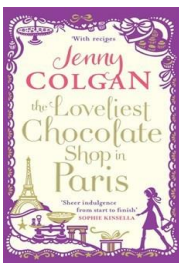
This entertaining novel tells the story of geneticist Don Tillman, who creates a questionnaire in order to find his perfect wife. Don meets Rosie, an unsuitable wife candidate, for whom he agrees to help find her father, and who he may find himself falling for despite what the quiz results say. *Addition* by Toni Jordan is also set in Australia and tells the story of a woman with OCD who finds she is falling in love.

### An Astronaut's Guide to Life on Earth by Col. Chris Hadfield



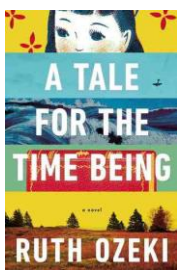
Captivating all ages during his time at the International Space Station from December 2012 until May 2013 with his videos about life in Space, Hadfield returned home a Canadian hero. In this autobiography, Hadfield shares behind the scenes stories about life as an astronaut and the training and hard work that is required that can apply to all other aspects of life. Jay Barbree's *Neil Armstrong: Life of Flight* provides an interesting historical background of early space flight from the view of the first person to walk on the moon.

### Loveliest Chocolate Shop in Paris by Jenny Colgan



After an injury forces her from her job, Anna Trent embarks on a new life working at a Parisian chocolate shop. Anna has to learn to navigate Paris, chocolate making, the story between Thierry the chocolatier, and Claire, Anna's former teacher. This novel provides the reader with a Parisian vacation and will have you reaching for your favourite chocolate treat. Mary Simses' *The Irresistible Blueberry Bakeshop and Café* provides the reader with a similar story of personal discovery and the mystery of family.

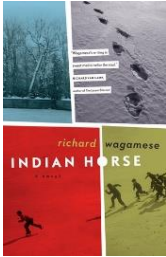
### A Tale for the Time Being by Ruth Ozeki



Washed ashore on a remote beach in British Columbia, a worn lunchbox containing the personal affects and journal of a Japanese teen is found by a hiker. In hopes of reuniting the journal with its writer, the woman becomes dedicated to finding out more about the Tokyo teenager who shares her life and that of her 104 year old great grandmother. *A Tale for the Time Being* takes the reader into the past and present in Canada and Japan, providing insight into Japanese culture. *The Wind Up Bird Chronicle* by Haruki Murakami provides another perspective of Tokyo and Japanese culture through various decades.

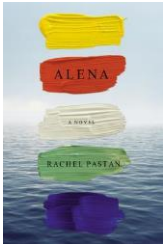
## Diana Krawczyk, Mississauga Public Library

### Indian Horse by Richard Wagamese



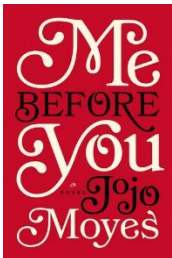
I was inspired to read this book after meeting Wagamese and attending his emotional session at the 2014 OLA Superconference. *Indian Horse* tells the story of Saul, who is taken to a residential school and discovers a love of hockey, the Canadian game. Wagamese's spare yet beautiful prose lays bare the agony of an Aboriginal child's life which is touched by abandonment, racism and betrayal. *Three Day Road* by Joseph Boyden also brings us a similarly raw Aboriginal narrative while *Bastard Out of Carolina* by Dorothy Allison echoes much of the same vulnerability.

### Alena by Rachel Pastan



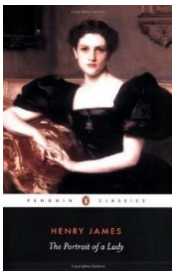
For lovers of *Rebecca* by Daphne DuMaurier, this book is a must read as it is a faithful re-telling of the old story in a modern context. Alena is the dead but ever-present original curator of Bernard Augustin's renowned art gallery, The Nauk. Our ingénue, the unnamed second fiddle, is swept off her feet by Augustin who brings her to his luxurious home and unkind employees. Amor Towles' *Rules of Civility* brings some of the same charm and innocence while exploring the depths of human tragedy.

### Me Before You by Jojo Moyes



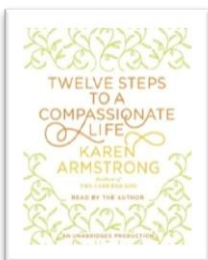
This is a recipe for the romantic, with Will Traynor, paralyzed in a motorcycle accident, opening up to shy and simple Lou, former waitress at The Buttered Bun. Lou is brought on to assist in Will's care and she soon realizes that she needs to attend to Will's bruised soul more than his broken body. Less downward spiral, Jennifer Weiner's *The Next Best Thing* features a similar relationship and Will's character draws from all the great, shattered men such as Rochester from *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte.

### The Portrait of a Lady by Henry James



When first assigned to read this book, I couldn't finish it but I have since read it two more times and it is an enjoyable read every time. Isabel Archer is the quintessential American heiress who is young, innocent and easily manipulated by the unscrupulous. James' writing is strongly interior with much personal reflection and exhaustive description. Edith Wharton's *The Age of Innocence* revisits this opulent emptiness and Willa Cather's *My Ántonia* captures the essence of entrapment.

### Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life by Karen Armstrong

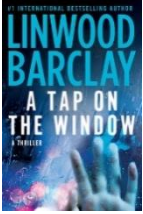


Armstrong has written a number of books about the world's religions and she, being a former Catholic nun, advocates for an observation of the principle: do not unto others as you would not want to have done unto you. Featured on Oprah's Super Soul Sunday, this book gives people an action plan to develop a deep and abiding compassion for others. Drawing on the spirituality of Joseph Campbell's *The Power of Myth*, Armstrong's work mirrors the work of the Dalai Lama's *An Open Heart: Practicing Compassion in Everyday Life*.



## Elsa Ngan, Toronto Public Library

### A Tap on the Window by Linwood Barclay



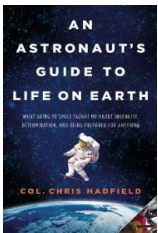
This is the winner of the 2014 CBC's Bookie Award's Thriller category. Cal is a Private Investigator. He and his wife have been grieving their son's tragic death for the past two months. Regardless of what he was told, Cal believes that Scott's death was not accidental and aims to prove it. A bumpy reading ride all the way through! Fellow Canadian author Ian Hamilton's mystery series featuring forensic accountant Ava Lee are also exciting from start to finish.

### My Journey by Olivia Chow



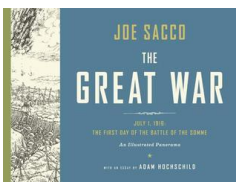
Toronto's Mayoral candidate Olivia Chow shares her story in this release. She describes her childhood, teenage years as an immigrant, and her adult life up to now. She also describes her goals and achievements while serving the people of Toronto and Canada. She descriptively expresses the love that she shared with late Jack Layton. Two other female political figures have also shared their life stories and achievements: Hillary Rodham Clinton's latest, *Hard Choices* and former Governor General of Canada Adrienne Clarkson's *Heart Matters: a Memoir*.

### An Astronaut's Guide to Life on Earth by Chris Hadfield



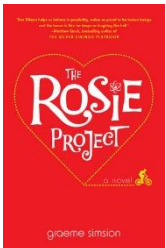
Famous yet humble Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield shares the lessons he learns while training to be one and how he applies those lessons to life on Earth. Hadfield has an upcoming release entitled, *You Are Here: Around the World in 92 Minutes*. Richard Carlson's original *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff-and It's the All the Small Stuff* has been offering similar guidance in achieving peace of mind.

### The Great War: July 1, 1916: The First Battle of the Somme: An illustrated Panorama by Joe Sacco



This is a detailed black-and-white drawing printed on heavyweight accordion-fan paper about the first day of the Battle of Somme. Sacco masterfully depicts the calmness felt behind the frontline to the nervousness spreading at the trenches to the pain and death experienced crossing No Man's Land. The drawing is accompanied by an essay about that exhausting first day by Adam Hochschild in addition to Sacco's own annotations. Japan's true manga legend, Shigeru Mizuki illustrates his unforgettable WWII experiences in *Onwards to Our Noble Deaths*. Canadian author Paul Keery, with the help of illustrator Michael Wyatt, summarizes Canada's WWII's involvement in *Canada at War: a Graphic History of World War Two*.

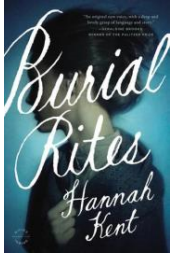
### The Rosie Project by Graeme C. Simsion



Socially awkward Professor Don Tillman cares only about genetics and to live his life driven by routines. He finds that dating wastes too much time and efforts. But somehow he finds the time and musters the effort to design a scientific questionnaire for women to fill out to help him find his soul mate. Suddenly, Rosie stands at his door step and things take off in all directions! The story of Rosie and Don will continue in the upcoming release of *The Rosie Effect* this fall. The main character, Christopher from *A Curious Incident of a Dog in Night-time*, takes on a different and mysterious adventure.

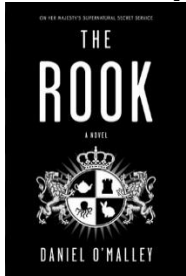
## Jennifer Green, Oshawa Public Library

### Burial Rites by Hannah Kent



This fascinating book recounts the story of Agnes Magnúsdóttir, the last woman executed in Iceland in 1829. Kent has some wonderful descriptions of life in this cold country, and gives us a strong sense of what Agnes's last few months were like. This is a great story for people who enjoy atmospheric books with well-developed characters. Readalikes: *The Angel Makers* by Jessica Gregson, *Before I Burn* by Gaute Heivoll

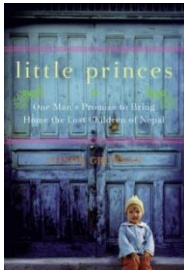
### The Rook by Daniel O'Malley



O'Malley's debut fantasy is fast-paced with interesting, unique characters. Myfanwy Thomas finds herself in a middle of a field with a note in her pocket that reads, "The body you are wearing used to be mine." She spends the rest of the novel trying to solve the mystery that is her past. An extremely innovative novel with lots of espionage and X-Men-like characters.

Readalikes: *Midnight Riot* (also titled *Rivers of London*) by Ben Aaronovitch, *The Eyre Affair* by Jasper Fforde

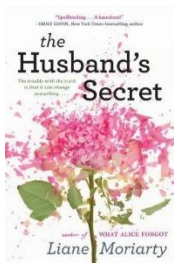
### Little Princes by Conor Grennan



Although non-fiction, *Little Princes* is a quick, and often humorous, fiction-like read. Grennan volunteered at the Little Princes orphanage in Nepal for three months, but it turned into a mission. You feel like Grennan is personally talking to you as the writing is very conversational and straightforward.

Readalikes: *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson, *The Lost Daughters of China* by Karin Evans

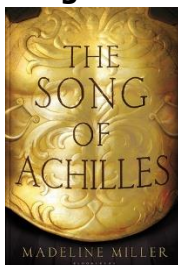
### The Husband's Secret by Liane Moriarty



Cecilia Fitzpatrick thinks she has it all, until she reads a letter from her husband she was never supposed to find. This novel is funny, sometimes poignant, and jam-packed with characters whose lives are intertwined. Moriarty does an interesting job of making you ask yourself what you would do in the characters' situations as life is rarely black and white. A quick vacation read!

Readalikes: *More Like Her* by Liza Palmer, *Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn

### Song of Achilles by Madeline Miller

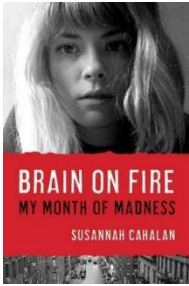


I adored this story about Achilles and his friend Patroclus. Told from Patroclus's point of view, we learn how the two very different boys met and how their strong and devoted friendship developed. Miller's characters are wonderfully sympathetic, and her beautiful and gentle writing brings this myth to life.

Readalikes: *Helen of Troy* by Margaret George, *Lavinia* by Ursula K. Le Guin

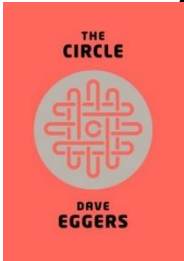
## Kristen Caschera, London Public Library

### Brain on Fire: My Month of Madness by Susannah Cahalan



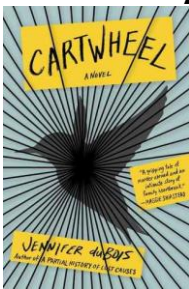
Susannah Cahalan is a young, healthy 24 year old when she starts experiencing paranoia, memory loss, and psychosis. Her doctors are stumped and Susannah is diagnosed with everything from an eating disorder to alcoholism before receiving a lifesaving diagnosis from a top neurologist. A medical mystery and a memoir in one, *Brian on Fire* supplements Susannah's personal account with medical research and scientific fact. David Stuart McLean's *The Answer to the Riddle is Me* is a similar tale of a medical mystery, while the stigma surrounding mental illness is also explored in *Madness: A Bipolar Life* by Marya Hornbacher.

### The Circle by Dave Eggers



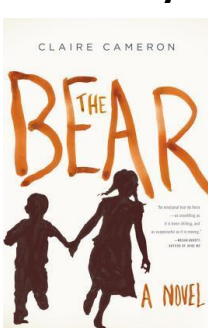
Mae Holland cannot believe her luck when she scores a job at The Circle, the most powerful company in the world. At first everything seems wonderful - the open concept buildings, the parties, the innovative ideas - but slowly Mae's life is consumed by The Circle and the line between private and public begins to blur. A novel about social media's effect on identity, privacy, history, and democracy, *The Circle* made me want to delete my Facebook and Twitter accounts and go live on a remote island. *Super Sad True Love Story* by Gary Shteyngart also examines the perils of technology in our personal lives, while Katherine Losse's memoir *The Boy Kings: A Journey Into the Heart of the Social Network* tells a similar tale of working for a technological empire.

### Cartwheel by Jennifer Dubois



A young American student studying abroad. A handsome and mysterious boyfriend. A roommate, brutally murdered in their shared room. Sound familiar? Inspired by the events of the Amanda Knox case, *Cartwheel* is a haunting tale that will keep you guessing up to the very last page. Lily Hayes is an American student studying abroad in Buenos Aires. Five weeks into her semester, her roommate Katy is found murdered. Did Lily have a part in the grisly crime? None of the narrators are sure. Joyce Carol Oates' *Black Girl, White Girl* also examines the themes of identity and culpability, while *Abroad* by Katie Crouch is also loosely based on the Amanda Knox/Meredith Kercher case.

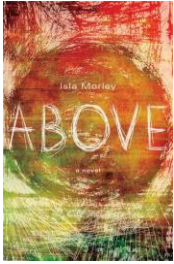
### The Bear by Claire Cameron



During a family camping trip, five-year-old Anna awakes in the middle of the night to the horrific sounds of her parents being mauled by a bear. Anna manages to get her younger brother Stick into their canoe and away from the campsite, and the two children must fend for themselves in the wilderness of remote Algonquin Park. Told from Anna's point of view, *The Bear* is both terrifying and endearing, a harrowing tale of courage and survival through the eyes of a child. Emma Donoghue's bestseller *Room* tells a different but just as harrowing tale through the eyes of five-year-old Jack, while *The First True Lie* by Marina Mander is the tale of ten-year-old Luca who is left to fend for himself.

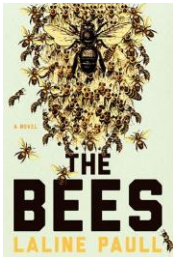
## Nicole Adams, Oshawa Public Libraries

### Above by Isla Morley



A young woman is abducted and held in an extensive underground shelter by a man who believes he is protecting her from the apocalypse. Time passes and she learns to adapt to her surroundings, all the while yearning to escape. When this finally happens, she discovers the world above has changed. As in Emma Donoghue's *Room* and Alice Sebold's *The Lovely Bones*, Morley explores the unthinkable with haunting detail. For those who enjoy apocalyptic fiction such as *Rivers* by Michael Farris, *Wool* by Hugh Howey and *White Horse* by Alex Adams.

### The Bees by Laline Paull



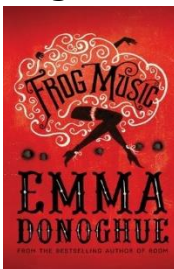
Flora 717 is a lowly female worker bee born into the lowest caste of her society, where the queen rules and is worshipped by all. Although there are strict rules about the roles of each caste, Flora has attributes that set her apart and she has adventures on her quest to be of service to her queen. The way the hive operates is a brilliantly drawn dystopia with parallels to Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* and Collins' *The Hunger Games*. Those who enjoy the anthropomorphic aspect might try *Albert of Adelaide* by Howard Anderson.

### Dark Places by Gillian Flynn



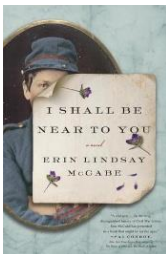
Libby Day was just 7 years old when her family was massacred and based on her testimony, her brother Ben was sent to prison. Years later, as Libby drifts through life without purpose, she is contacted by a group of people who believe Ben is innocent and Libby starts to question everything she thought she knew about that horrible night. This should appeal to those who like dark suspense as in *Sworn to Silence* by Linda Castillo and *In the Woods* by Tana French

### Frog Music by Emma Donoghue



Blanche is a burlesque dancer and prostitute in San Francisco, struggling to make ends meet during the 1876 smallpox epidemic. Blanche befriends Jenny, who captures frogs to sell to restaurants and is regularly arrested for wearing trousers, a crime for women at that time. The tale begins with Jenny's murder and then follows Blanche through the hunt to solve the crime. Although set in a later time period, *China Dolls* by Lisa See shares the San Francisco setting and relationships between women. Irresistibly vivid characters will be sure to draw lovers of *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen.

### I shall be near to you by Erin Lindsay McCabe

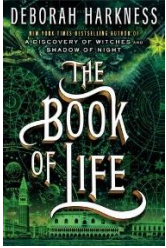


When Civil War breaks out soon after Rosetta and Jeremiah's marriage, Rosetta cannot bear to be separated from her husband and follows him into battle dressed as a man. Loosely based on true accounts, this novel explores a part of history that is rarely taught. Readers who enjoy historical fiction based on factual events with strong female characters as in Geraldine Brooks' *Caleb's Crossing* and Charles Frazier's *Cold Mountain* will find much to enjoy here. *Neverhome* by Laird Hunt explores the same theme of women fighting during the Civil War.



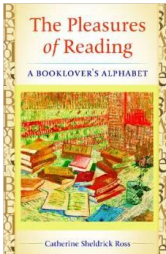
## Pauline Dewan, Wilfrid Laurier University Library

### The Book of Life by Deborah Harkness



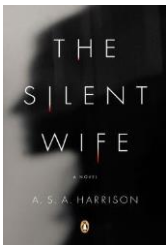
*The Book of Life*, the much-anticipated third volume of Deborah Harkness's Old Souls trilogy, will exceed all your expectations. Returning to the present from the Elizabethan era of volume two, witch and Yale professor Diana Bishop faces life-threatening dangers as she battles the forces of evil in this sweeping epic tale. Scientists, researchers, vampires, witches, and daemons come together in this volume to overcome catastrophic events. Readers looking for similar books will enjoy Karen Marie Moning's *FaeFever* and Stephanie Myer's YA novel, *New Moon*.

### The Pleasures of Reading: A Booklover's Alphabet by Catherine Sheldrick Ross



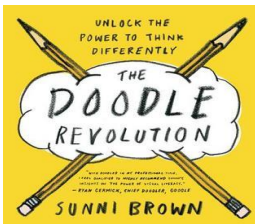
*The Pleasures of Reading* by Professor Catherine Sheldrick Ross is a celebration of reading—a non-fiction book that explores all facets of the topic. This A-Z volume is truly encyclopedic, covering such topics as books that change lives, extraordinary readers, unreadable books, marginalia, various genres, e-reading, and much more. Ross' years of research interviewing avid readers form the nucleus of this book and provide fascinating insights into the reading experience. Readers of Keith Oatley's *Such Stuff as Dreams* and Jonathan Gottschall's *The Storytelling Animal* will not want to miss this must-read book.

### The Silent Wife by A.S.A. Harrison



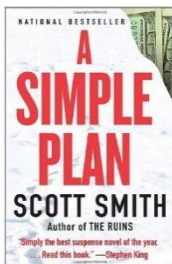
Psychotherapist Jodi Brett seems to have it all: a job she loves, a successful husband, an upscale home, and a luxurious lifestyle. Yet we are told in the first chapter that "a few short months are all it will take to make a killer out of her." *The Silent Wife* is the story of how and why an ordinary wife becomes a hardened murderer. This book will appeal to those who love suspense-filled psychological thrillers. Readers of Gillian Flynn's *Gone Girl* and S. J. Watson's *Before I Go to Sleep* will not want to miss *The Silent Wife*.

### The Doodle Revolution: Unlock the Power to Think Differently by Sunni Brown



Are you a doodler? Our most celebrated scientists, writers, and innovators have been doodlers. Visual literacy expert Sunni Brown argues that doodling reduces stress, helps people focus on tasks, and stimulates innovation by igniting various parts of the brain. *The Doodle Revolution* is a fascinating exploration of the power of doodling and its more advanced partner, infodoodling. Brown's TED Talk on ideas from the book has been viewed by more than a million people. This book will appeal to anyone who liked *Intuition Pump and Other Tools for Thinking* by Daniel C. Dennet and *Focus* by Daniel Goleman.

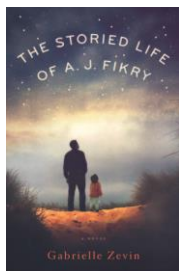
### A Simple Plan by Scott Smith



An accountant, his brother, and a friend stumble upon the wreckage of a plane. When they find a duffle bag inside the cockpit filled with 4.4 million dollars, they decide to keep the money. The series of events that follow upon this decision will keep you reading long past your bedtime. If you like suspense thrillers with strong characterization and a riveting plot, you will love *A Simple Plan*. This book will appeal to readers who enjoyed *Criminal Enterprise* by Owen Laukkanen and *The Three-Day Affair* by Michael Kardos.

## Julie Wendland, County of Lennox & Addington Libraries

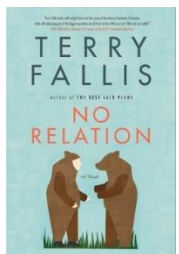
### The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry by Gabrielle Zevin



What do a persistent sales rep, an abandoned baby, and an eccentric, cranky bookstore owner have in common? The makings of a charming read! *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry* takes place on Alice Island and tells the story of how A.J. Fikry gets over the grief of losing his wife. The island is filled with quirky characters who help Fikry realize the importance of why we must go on living even when we lose people close to us. I really liked how Zevin started each chapter with Fikry writing about a book from his past. This is a book that is easily devoured in one sitting.

READALIKES: *The End of your Life Book Club* by Will Schwalbe; *84 Charing Cross Road* by Helene Hanff

### No Relation by Terry Fallis

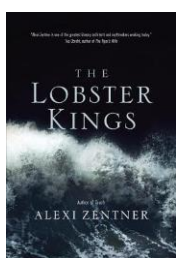


Terry Fallis has had me hooked ever since I listened to the podcast of his first novel, *The Best Laid Plans*. *No Relation* did not disappoint. Our poor protagonist has to suffer through being fired, losing his live-in girlfriend and pressure from his father to come home and take over the family business. He decides he will finish writing his great novel but suffers from writer's block. If this was too much for one man to handle he has the added stress of sharing his name with Ernest Hemingway. Earnest Hemmingway (note the different spelling) sets off on a whirlwind trip to banish the ghost of Hemingway and

starts a support group for others named after famous people. This book is a riot. The scene in the DMV had me in tears laughing.

READALIKES: *Our Man in Havana* by Graham Greene; *Skios* by Michael Frayn

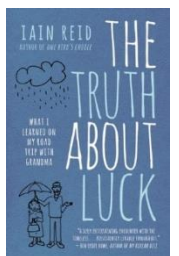
### The Lobster Kings by Alexi Zentner



Anything that has lobster in the title can't be a bad read, right? All Cordelia Kings ever wanted was to take over her father's lobster fishing business, but she has to contend with being a female in a male dominated world, the struggles of the fishing industry and rivalries of her family. The Kings family has been fishing the waters around Loosewood Island for more than 300 years and Cordelia sums it up best by saying, "the ocean gave us life and it also took life away." This book transported me to the East coast and had me feeling the cold, salty spray and the rocking of the waves.

READALIKES: *No Great Mischief* by Alistair MacLeod; *Galore* by Michael Crummey

### The Truth about Luck by Iain Reid



What gift do you give to the person who has everything, or to your 90-something grandmother who is downsizing? Iain Reid and his brother decide over drinks at the pub: a vacation. Iain takes his grandmother on a 'stay-cation' to his basement apartment and together they bond and share memories about each of their lives over the course of 5 days. Although this was a 2013 book, it has stuck with me and reminds me that sometimes the best gifts do not need to have monetary value to be enjoyed.

READALIKES: *The Ride of Our Lives* by Mike Leonard; *Flee, Fly, Flown* by Janet Hepburn