

The Boys in the Boat

Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics,

by Daniel James Brown

"In the early 1930s, nine young University of Washington students were part of the rowing crew striving to become the final team picked to represent the USA at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin, even as Hitler was brazenly building his Third Reich. This is the emotional story of the crew and those who put their trust in them. Fiercely determined by the hard times of the Great Depression, they poured their hearts into sculpting a victorious team. A most impressive story, expertly told!"

-Carol Hicks, The Bookshelf, Truckee, CA

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The Cartographer of No Man's Land

A Novel, by P.S. Duffy

"The Great War has inspired great literature and this novel takes its place in the ranks of unforgettable World War I novels. A pacifist, Angus finds himself at the front while searching for his brother-in-law and discovers that he must not only confront the horrors of combat but also every value he holds. At home, a Canadian fishing village is also being devastated by the results of the war. Duffy deftly portrays the total destruction wrought by combat. A powerful and poignant debut."

-Bill Cusumano, Nicola's Books, Ann Arbor, MI

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Guests on Earth

A Novel, by Lee Smith

"Focusing on Highland Hospital in Asheville, North Carolina, where Zelda Fitzgerald died in the fire that destroyed the hospital in 1948, this story is told through the voice of Evalina Toussaint who was sent to the hospital as a young child. Evalina's narrative is an example of the brutal early treatment of mental illness, when some patients became subjects for medical experiments. Any fan of the Fitzgeralds, the medical profession, or the history of medicine in the early 1900s will enjoy this book."

-Jackie Willey, Fiction Addiction, Greenville, SC



In the House Upon the Dirt Between the Lake and the Woods

A Novel, by Matt Bell

"In a narrative voice like smooth bourbon, Bell's excellent debut novel is a modern folktale of opposing elements: lake and dirt, bear and squid, song and ghost. Telling the tale with a quiet brutality, Bell finds heart and perseverance in nature that is red in tooth and claw, as the unnamed narrator inexorably strives against forces vastly more powerful than he could ever hope to be, for the woman he loves and the family life he wants."

-Josh Cook, Porter Square Books, Cambridge, MA

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A Marker to Measure Drift

A Novel, by Alexander Maksik

"This is the story of a young Liberian refugee, Jacqueline, who has come to a Greek island with shaky memories suffused with profound loss and shadowy images: holding the feet of her beloved sister, an orange cat, the Rolex watch on her father's wrist, the clink of ice mixed with gin and lime in her mother's glass, ghost boys with machetes. Maksik's novel explores profound themes, both political and existential. I am haunted by the power of this book."

-Amy Palmer, Northshire Bookstore, Manchester Center, VT

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The Ocean at the End of the Lane A Novel, by Neil Gaiman

"Gaiman is a magnificent storyteller, creating scenes so complete that you aren't just reading, but rather inhabiting a universe that's thoroughly believable yet truly otherworldly. The story's terror—the way a child's wants, needs, and fears go unnoticed by adults, and the horrors that can result—is perfectly balanced against the consolation of books, the magic of the natural world, and the power of those who do listen, understand, and take action to set the universe to rights at whatever cost to themselves. This is a book to return to again and again."

-Carol Schneck Varner, Schuler Books & Music, Okemos, MI

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On Sal Mal Lane

A Novel, by Ru Freeman

"In 1983, the Sri Lankan tensions between the Tamils and the Sinhalese broke into civil war. On quiet, solitary Sal Mal Lane, the Horvaths and their neighbors are not sheltered from the turmoil, and the prejudices of the greater world find their way onto their secluded street. The coming of age of the children on Sal Mal Lane and the loss of one innocent in particular shatters their world. On Sal Mal Lane is a beautifully written, heartbreaking story of a foreign yet somehow familiar time and place."

- Ellen Richmond, Children's Book Cellar, Waterville, ME



The Rosie Project A Novel by Graeme Simsion

"Don Tillman is a brilliant geneticist, but he has always been rather socially maladroit. Imagine his surprise when a friend tells him that he would make a wonderful husband. Intrigued, he starts The Wife Project and commences the search for the perfect spouse. While in the midst of his extremely precise hunt for a wife, Rosie Jarman blows into Don's life like a wild wind. Rosie is on a quest of her own—The Father Project—the search for her biological father. Much ado about a comedy of errors ensues in this hilarious, quirky romance!"

Rachel King, Bookhouse of Stuyvesant Plaza, Albany, NY

Find out

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The Silver Star

A Novel, by Jeannette Walls

"In this novel, 12-year-old Bean and her older sister Liz are left to fend for themselves when their musically inclined mother takes her leave of them to 'sort things out.' The sisters embark on a trip from California to Virginia to find their Uncle Tinsley and, hopefully, some stability. Bean's impetuous enthusiasm and clear sense of what is right are the girls' best defense against the prejudices, injustices, and abuse that await them in 1970s Byler, Virginia. Scout Finch has met her match in Bean in this wonderfully woven tale!"

-Linda McLoughlin Figel, {pages} a bookstore, Manhattan Beach, CA

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The Tilted World

A Novel, by Tom Franklin and Beth Ann Fennelly

"In a compelling, poetic, and detailed manner, Franklin and Fennelly bring to life a little-known catastrophe in American history. The Tilted World weaves together the stories of two endearing characters—an orphan who grows up to be a decorated World War I hero turned Prohibition revenuer and a bootlegging firecracker of a woman who yearns for her lost child. Add the setting of a town on the brink of destruction by deluge and some unsavory characters looking to profit from calamity, and the reader will be swept away by their story."

-Sara Peyton, CoffeeTree Books, Morehead, KY

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We Need New Names

A Novel, by NoViolet Bulawayo

"Bulawayo gives her character Darling an emotionally powerful voice while telling her story in such sparse and brilliantly crafted sentences, I had to put the book down just to savor the writing and take a break from the heartbreaking scenes of the strife in Zimbabwe. Bulawayo takes us on one young immigrant's journey from a country being destroyed by violence to one where the grandness and wealth are overwhelming and the Midwestern cold is piercing. Not to be missed!"

-Annie Philbrick, Bank Square Books, Mystic, CT



The Yonahlossee Riding Camp for Girls

A Novel, by Anton DiSclafani

"In 1930, at the height of the Great Depression, Theadora Atwell is forced to leave the only home she has ever known and the family she cherishes to attend the Yonahlossee Riding Camp for Girls in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. Not only has she been banished to a world she knows nothing about, but also her life until this point has been lived mostly in seclusion with her nuclear family on a thousand-acre orange ranch in Florida. The reason for her banishment is a secret slowly revealed. This is a coming-of-age story you won't soon forget."

-Terry Gilman, Mysterious Galaxy, San Diego, CA

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