

Book List

FICTION:

Welty, Eudora, an excellent Southern writer of the 40s to 1970s. One of her best novels is "Delta Wedding.

Ellison, Ralph, "The Invisible Man, 1952 National Book Award. Very influential, rich, and very literary, not an easy read. Novel about race relations very important to all especially African American and Immigrant writers.

Lukas, Michael "The Oracle of Istanbul" Set in Ottoman Empire 1877. about an 8 year old Jewish girl becomes a prodigy.

Erdrich, Louise "LaRose" or earlier books of hers such as "Love Medicine " "The Round House" and the Plague of Doves" Usually about Chipiqua/Ojibwe Native American Indians.

Sullivan, Courtney, *Saints for All Occasions*. National best seller top book of 2017 NYT. Now in paperback. About Two Irish sisters, immigrants, family stories.

Dastgir, Rosie, *Small Fortune*. Enthusiastically recommended by Joy Doty; in the library. About a Pakistani family living in England-generational conflict.

Han Su-yin, *The Crippled Tree*. By the author of *Love Is A Many Splendored Thing*. Jackie Kaminski's favorite book about China & highly recommended, it's an autobiographical history of China from around the beginning of the 20th century to around the time of the Communist takeover in 1949. Han Su-Yin's father was Belgian, involved in the building of the railroads in China at the end of the 19th century; her mother was Chinese.

Kawabata Yasunari, *Snow Country*. Short and highly evocative Japanese novel. Won Nobel Prize for Literature.

Connell, Evan, *Mrs. Bridge*. The middle aged wife of a successful lawyer in 1930s Kansas City, India Bridge, tries to cope with her dissatisfaction with an easy, though empty, life. (A classic midcentury bestseller followed by Mr. Bridge.)

The Lemon Tree: An Arab, a Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East by Sandy Tolan.

Kingsolver, Barbara, *the Poisonwood Bible*. Set in an African village. Missionary family. In the Belgian Congo having moved from Georgia in 1959.

NON FICTION:

Shanbay, Vivek about Indian women

The New Urban Crisis, by A. Florida, about how our cities are creating more and more inequality.

"All The Great Prizes: the Life of John Hay, from Lincoln to Roosevelt" by John Taliaferro.

Kissinger, Henry, *A World Restored*, Metternich, Castlereagh, and the Conservative Politics in a Revolutionary World. (1973) About the last years of the Napoleonic Wars, the Congress of Vienna in 1815, and the architects of the balance of power system that maintained the longest peace in European history.

Sullivan, Rosemary, *Svetlana*. Biography of Stalin's daughter, who defected to the West.

Ehrenreich, Barbara, *Natural Causes*. (Non-fiction), about how we are killing ourselves to live longer. She also wrote a best seller called *Nickled and Dimed* documenting how hard it was for her to live on minimum wage. Pick either one. Popular social science.

King, Ross, *Mass Enchantment*. *Very much true based on many letters and notes*. About Claude Monet and his last years and the painting of the water lilies. Rich in details & family anecdotes. (2016)

Herold, Christopher, *the Age of Napoleon*.

Dalby, Liza, *Geisha*. Author goes to Japan as a young woman to study to become a geisha. Explains many aspects.

Walls, Jeannette, *the Glass Castle*. Author recalls a bizarre childhood. Originally published 2005, and the basis of the movie.

Koehler, Jeff, *Where the Wild Coffee Grows*: "An absorbing, almost Tolkienesque narrative of politics, ecology, and economics that documents the spread of the (misnamed) *coffea arabica*."