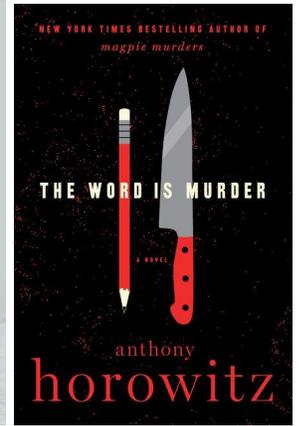
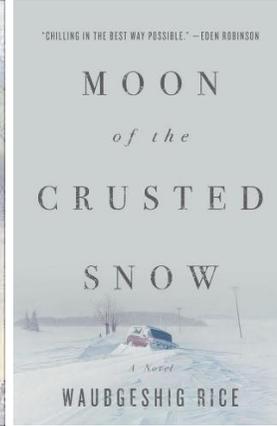
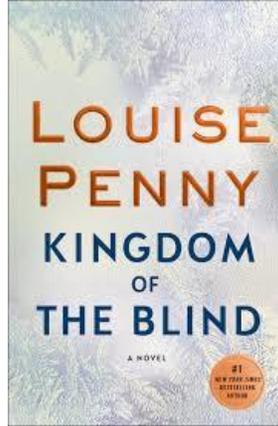
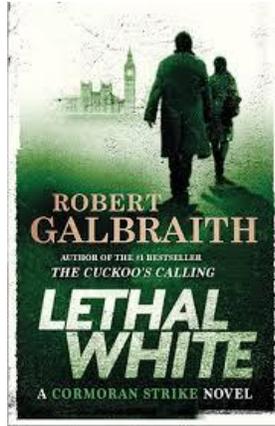
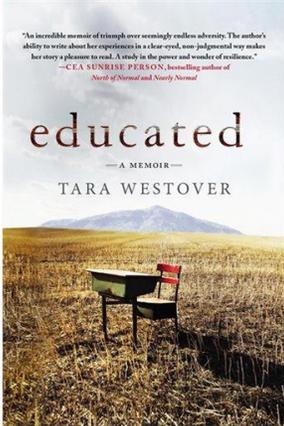


ALMONTE READS 2018

Suggested
By
You!

We asked you what books were the most memorable reads of 2018 and your answer was:



***Educated* – Tara Westover:** An unforgettable memoir in the tradition of *The Glass Castle* about a young girl who, kept out of school, leaves her survivalist family and goes on to earn a PhD from Cambridge University.

***Lethal White* by Robert Galbraith (aka J.K. Rowling):** Private investigator Cormoran Strike returns in a new mystery from Robert Galbraith, author of the #1 international bestseller *The Cuckoo's Calling*.

***Kingdom of the Blind* by Louise Penny:** The entrancing new crime thriller featuring Chief Inspector Armand Gamache.

***Moon of the Crusted Snow* by Waubgeshig Rice:** In a small northern First Nations community, all lines of communication, as well as the power, have been disconnected without explanation. Winter has arrived and panic has set in. Has something happened down south? Is help on the way? And who is this mysterious survivalist, Jason Scott, who has arrived in town?

***The Word is Murder* by Anthony Horowitz:** New York Times bestselling author of *Magpie Murders* and *Moriarty*, Anthony Horowitz has yet again brilliantly reinvented the classic crime novel, this time writing a fictional version of himself as the Watson to a modern-day Holmes.

There were many honorable mentions. This is the list, **separated by genre**, of the best loved books in Almonte in 2018. Happy readings!

GENERAL FICTION

***The story of Arthur Truluv* by Elizabeth Berg:** A beautiful, life-affirming novel about a remarkably loving man who creates for himself and others second chances at happiness.

***The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas:** After witnessing her friend's death at the hands of a police officer, Starr Carter's life is complicated when the police and a local drug lord try to intimidate her in an effort to learn what happened the night Kahlil died.

***Armistice* by Harry Turtledove:** Set in an alternate 1950s in which General MacArthur ignites a nuclear war that nearly destroys the planet. The third and final installment in an all new series.

***Confessions of a Mask* by Yuko Mishima:** When a Japanese youth discovers he has homosexual tendencies he hides himself behind conventional behavior.

***Every Note Played* by Lisa Genova:** Richard is a successful concert pianist who has contracted ALS and now his right arm is paralyzed. His wife Katrina takes on the role of reluctant caretaker. Theirs is a marriage filled with secrets, blame, loneliness, and disappointment. The book is beautifully written and visceral in its description of the progression of ALS. Most moving to this reader was both characters' impassioned relationship to music.

***Everything Here is Beautiful* by Mira T. Lee:** The bond between a responsible, self-contained older sister and her mentally ill, impulsive younger sister is shaped and tested over years marked by the loss of their mother, an impetuous first marriage, a fling that results in the birth of a baby and painful sacrifices.

***Girl in Translation* by Jean Kwok:** Emigrating with her mother from Hong Kong to Brooklyn, Kimberly Chang begins a secret double life as an exceptional schoolgirl during the day and sweatshop worker at night, an existence also marked by her first crush and the pressure to save her family from poverty.

***Vi* by Kim Thuy:** The perfect complement to the exquisitely wrought novels *Ru* and *Mãn*, Canada Reads winner Kim Thúy returns with *Vi*, exploring the lives, loves and struggles of Vietnamese refugees as they reinvent themselves in new lands.

***Little Bee* by Chris Cleave:** The fates of a 16-year-old Nigerian orphan and a well-to-do British couple seeking to repair their strained marriage with a free holiday are joined when the couple decide to stray beyond the walls of their holiday resort on a Nigerian beach.

***Six Degrees of Freedom* by Nicolas Dickner:** "A novel featuring obsession and adventure, science experiments and parakeets, coding and container ships, *Six Degrees of Freedom* was the winner of the Governor General's Literary Award in its original French-language version. Nicolas Dickner is a previous winner of Canada Reads for the novel *Nikolski*.

***A Patchwork Planet* by Anne Tyler:** A troubled boy with a compulsion to break into other people's houses to read their mail is not able to break free of it until he is almost thirty, when he meets Sophia, a woman of unshakeable goodness who little by little transforms him into the good man he wants to be.

***Room* by Emma Donoghue:** A five-year-old narrates a story about his life growing up in a single room where his mother aims to protect him from the man who has held her prisoner for seven years since she was a teenager.

***Sea Prayer* by Khaled Hosseini:** The #1 New York Times best-selling author of *The Kite Runner* presents an evocatively illustrated tribute to the tragic human realities of today's refugee crisis in the form of a father's letter to his young son on the eve of a dangerous journey.

***Secret Daughter* by Shilpi Somaya Gowda:** Interweaving the stories of Kavita, Somer, and the child that binds both of their destinies, *Secret Daughter* poignantly explores the emotional terrain of motherhood, loss, identity, and love, as witnessed through the lives of two families--one Indian, one American-- and the child that indelibly connects them.

***Split Tooth* by Tanya Tagaq:** The book combines short fiction and poetry to weave together a coming-of-age story that sometimes reads like an exceptional young girl's journal. The deceptively simple vignettes mix dreams, myth, and the quotidian occurrences of Nunavut life.

***The Boat People* by Sharon Bala:** When the rusty cargo ship carrying Mahindan and 500 fellow refugees from Sri Lanka's bloody civil war reaches the shores of British Columbia, the young father believes the struggles that he and his six-year-old son have long faced are finally over. But their journey has only just begun. The group is thrown into prison, with

government officials and news headlines speculating that among "the boat people" are members of a terrorist militia infamous for suicide attacks.

***The One in a Million Boy* by Monica Wood:** From the acclaimed author of *When We Were the Kennedys* and *Any Bitter Thing*, the incandescent story of a 104-year-old woman and the sweet, strange young boy assigned to help her around the house—a friendship with unexpected reverberations for the boy's unmoored family.

***The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein:** Enzo knows he is different from other dogs: a philosopher with a nearly human soul (and an obsession with opposable thumbs), he has educated himself by watching television and by listening closely to the words of his master, Denny Swift, an up-and-coming race car driver. On the night before his death, Enzo takes stock of his life, recalling all that he and his family have been through, hoping, in his next life, to return as a human.

***The Great Alone* by Kristin Hannah:** Leni and her troubled family embark on a new way of life in Alaska's wilderness in 1974 – hoping this is finally the solution for her troubled, POW father. In Alaska, Leni and her family are tested and when change comes to their small community her father's anger threatens to explode and divide the town. This is a beautifully written novel, descriptive and engaging with well-developed characters and a strong sense of place.

***The Last Kestrel* by Jill McGivering:** Two strong women. Two cultures. One unifying cause: survival.

***The Small Things that End the Word* by Jeanette Lynes:** In 1954 Sadie Wilder gets the chance to babysit for a posh family in Toronto, but little does she know that Hurricane Hazel is arriving. The aftermath resonates into 2005, the year when Hurricane Katrina strikes.

***The Snow Child* by Eowyn Ivey:** Alaska in the 1920s is a difficult place for Jack and Mabel. Drifting apart, the childless couple discover Faina, a young girl living alone in the wilderness. Soon, Jack and Mabel come to love Faina as their own. But when they learn a surprising truth about the girl, their lives change in profound ways.

***There There* by Tommy Orange:** A large cast of interwoven characters depicts the experience of Native Americans living in urban settings. Perfect for readers of character-driven fiction with a strong sense of place.

***Those Who Save Us* by Jenna Blum:** For fifty years, Anna Schlemmer has refused to talk about her life in Germany during World War II. Her daughter, Trudy, was only three when she and her mother were liberated by an American soldier and went to live with him in Minnesota. Trudy's sole evidence of the past is an old photograph; a family portrait showing Anna, Trudy, and a Nazi officer, the Obersturmfuhrer of Buchenwald....

***Two Steps Forward* by Graeme C. Simsion:** An artist reeling from her husband's sudden death and an engineer recovering from a messy divorce embark on the centuries-old Camino de Santiago pilgrim route from France to Spain, tackling unanticipated challenges and their own difficulties with trusting strangers along the way.

***We Need to Talk About Kevin* by Lionel Shriver:** The mother of a teenage boy who killed seven fellow students and two adults in a high-school shooting writes a series of letters to her estranged husband on their son's upbringing and questions what she fears may be her own part in the tragedy.

FICTION – MYSTERY

***A Beautiful Blue Dead* by Charles Finch:** When Victorian gentleman Charles Lenox begins to investigate the apparent suicide of a friend's former servant, he suspects murder—but to find the killer, he must untangle a complex web of loyalties and animosities before it's too late.

***The Blackhouse* by Peter May:** Peter May has crafted a page-turning murder mystery that explores the darkness in our souls, and just how difficult it is to escape the past.

***Dark of the Moon* by John Sandford:** Virgil Flowers is sent to Bluestem, a small town where everyone knows everyone else, to investigate the murders of a man burned to death in his home and a doctor and his wife, unaware that he is tracking a murderer who may be targeting Virgil as his next victim.

***Death of a Ghost* by M.C. Beaton:** Spending an investigative night at a local castle reputed to be haunted, Sergeant Hamish Macbeth and his policeman associate, Clumsy, discover a dead body that suddenly goes missing.

***Evil Behind that Door* by Barbara Fraser Fradkin:** Cedric O'Toole, a soft-hearted handyman who has agreed to help his old school nemesis renovate his farmhouse, uncovers a chilling secret behind a boarded-up door in the cellar.

***High Profile* by Robert B. Parker:** Struggling with a high-profile case involving the murders of a controversial talk-show host and a young woman, Paradise police chief Jesse Stone becomes increasingly frustrated by the lack of interest on the part of the victims' families.

***Himself* by Jess Kidd:** When he discovers that his mother may not have given him up, but that foul play may have led to her disappearance, lovable car thief and Dublin charmer Mahony returns to the rural Irish Village where he was born to find out what really happened 26 years ago and, setting the town on its ear, enlists the help of a brash anarchist and retired theater actress to solve this mystery.

***Sebastian St. Cyr* series by C.S. Harris:** The amateur sleuth Sebastian St. Cyr helps the aristocracy solve gruesome crimes with the aid of his sharp senses, deductive insight, and forensic skills. Having his own sordid history, St. Cyr is often personally interested in the investigation -- or accused of murder himself. These fast-paced mysteries set in Regency-era London should interest fans of richly detailed historical fiction.

***The Coroner's Lunch* by Colin Cotterill:** Laos, 1972. The Communist Pathet Lao has taken over. Most of the educated class has fled, but 72-year-old Dr. Siri Paiboun, a Paris-trained doctor, remains and is appointed state coroner. When three bodies are recovered from a reservoir, Dr. Siri establishes that the cause of death was not drowning -- they seem to have been electrocuted. And then there is the inexplicable death of a Party bigwig's wife at a banquet. Dr. Siri doesn't think her death was from natural causes. In the course of his investigations, he travels to his birthplace, where he makes a discovery.

***The Firemaker* by Peter May:** This book features Beijing detective Li Yan, and American pathologist, Margaret Campbell, as they track the killer of a government scientist whose horribly burned corpse is found smoldering in a Beijing park.

***The Lighthouse* by P.D. James:** Combe Island, off the Cornish coast, has long been a haven for the rich and powerful. They go there for relaxation and privacy. When one visitor is murdered, Scotland Yard sends Dalgliesh and his team to carry on a quiet investigation. But when a second murder occurs, things don't stay quiet for long.

FICTION – ROMANCE

***Ayesha at Last* by Uzma Jalaluddin:** A modern-day Muslim Pride and Prejudice for a new generation of love.

***The Woman Left Behind* by Linda Howard:** Separated from the rest of the elite paramilitary team, communications expert Jina Modell escapes to the desert determined to evade the enemy and reconnect with her unit.

FICTION – THRILLER

***Killing Kate* by Alex Lake:** Kate returns from a post break-up holiday with her girlfriends to news of a serial killer in her home town – and his victims all look like her. It could, of course, be a simple coincidence. Or maybe not.

***Penn Cage* novels by Greg Iles:** These swiftly moving legal thrillers star widower Penn Cage, former Houston prosecuting attorney. Having returned to Natchez, Mississippi to grieve his late wife, Cage battles a variety of nasty criminals lurking behind the peaceful facade of his hometown. Plot-driven and suspenseful, this occasionally violent series has a strong dose of Southern Gothic atmosphere, incorporating both race relations and dark family history.

Origin by Dan Brown: After an event at which futurist Edmond Kirsch is to announce a groundbreaking discovery erupts into chaos, Robert Langdon rushes to Barcelona to locate a cryptic password that will reveal Kirsch's secret before it is lost forever.

Sunday Silence by Nicci French: Declared a person of interest when a body is discovered beneath the floorboards of her own home, London psychologist Frieda Klein realizes that a copycat killer of the chief suspect is responsible before she finds herself in a deadly game of tug-of-war between two obsessive murderers.

The Perfect Nanny by Leila Slimani: Follows the relationship between a working French-Moroccan couple and their too-good-to-be-true nanny, whose devotion to their children spirals into a psychologically charged cycle of jealousies, resentments and violence.

The Reckoning by John Grisham: The best-selling author of *The Firm* returns to Clanton, Mississippi, to trace the unthinkable mid-20th-century murder of a local reverend by a young war hero who refuses to defend his actions during a bizarre trial.

The Hellfire Club by Jake Tapper: A debut political thriller by the CNN anchor and author of the best-selling *The Outpost* finds an unlikely Congressman navigating the dangerous waters of 1950s Washington, D.C., in the aftermath of a predecessor's mysterious death, a situation that is complicated by backroom deals, underworld societies and a plot that could change the course of history.

Divine Justice by David Baldacci: In this fourth of the Camel Club series, two bullets silence Oliver Stone's foes. Those assassinations set off a manhunt of enormous proportions by some of the highest officials in government. The Camel Club must fend for itself, all the while protecting their elusive leader, Stone, as he avoids capture by the sometimes uninformed Joe Knox, the man in charge of the hunt.

Missing Justice by Alafair Burke: An investigation into the disappearance of Portland, Oregon, city judge Clarissa Easterbrook leads Deputy D.A. Samantha Kincaid on the trail of dark secrets from the past and corruption at the highest levels of city power.

Persuader by Lee Child: Jack Reacher takes an undercover assignment to investigate the disappearance of a federal agent from the home of a notorious drug dealer, but Reacher soon discovers that the dealer has ties to a man from Reacher's own past.

The Secret Servant by Daniel Silva: In the aftermath of an Amsterdam-based terrorism analyst's murder by a Muslim immigrant, Gabriel Allon investigates clues pertaining to the victim, in a case with ties to a secret terrorist organization and the abduction of an ambassador's daughter.

FICTION – CRIME

An Event in Autumn by Henning Mankell: A first English-language translation of a latest Kurt Wallander short novel finds the Inspector discovering a shallow grave in the garden of his new house and investigating the truth about the residence and its previous owner.

Angel's Tip by Alafair Burke: When fresh-faced college student Chelsea Hart is found murdered in East River Park, her wavy blond hair brutally hacked off, NYPD detective Ellie Hatcher catches the case--and finds herself under the watchful eye of a psychopath eager to add the prideful young female detective to his list of victims.

HISTORICAL FICTION

***A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles:** Deemed unrepentant by a Bolshevik tribunal in 1922, Count Alexander Rostov is sentenced to house arrest in a hotel across the street from the Kremlin, where he lives in an attic room while some of the most tumultuous decades in Russian history unfold.

***The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak:** Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel—a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.

***The City of Brass* by S. A. Chakraborty:** When healer Nahri awakens a hostile ifrit during an exorcism, she also unwittingly summons Dara, a daeva (djinn) who -- recognizing her djinn heritage -- transports her from the streets of Ottoman Cairo to the fabled city of Daevabad, where her presence exacerbates tensions between full-blooded daeva and half-human shafits. This compelling debut, which draws on Middle Eastern history and folklore, plunges readers into a vividly drawn world of conflicted family loyalties and political intrigue.

***Camulod Chronicles (Dream of Eagles)* by Jack Whyte:** Explores the turbulent world of Roman-occupied Britain, as two Romans struggle to build lives in a land savaged by warring Picts, Celts, and invading Saxons.

***The Frozen Hours* by Jeff Shaara:** A clash between a North Korean invading army in 1950 South Korea and a U.S. defense force is challenged by overwhelmingly brutal weather conditions in a high-action account of the Battle of Chosin Reservoir that is told from the viewpoints of soldiers and leaders on both sides of the conflict.

***The Lotus Eaters* by Tatjana Soli:** As the sun sets on their life in Saigon, Helen and Linh struggle against both their inner demons and the ghosts of the past, illuminating the horrors of war, the dangers of obsession, and the redemptive power of love.

***The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah** Reunited when the elder's husband is sent to fight in World War II, French sisters Vianne and Isabelle find their bond as well as their respective beliefs tested by a world that changes in horrific ways.

***The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris:** An international best-seller based on the true story of an Auschwitz-Birkenau survivor traces the experiences of a Jewish Slovakian who uses his position as a concentration-camp tattooist to secure food for his fellow prisoners.

***Three Day Road* by Joseph Boyden:** The nephew of a Canadian Ojibwe who is the last of a line of healers and diviners, Cree reserve student Xavier enlists in the military during World War I, a conflict throughout which he and his friend, Elijah, are marginalized for their appearances, their culturally enhanced marksmanship, and their disparate views of the war.

***Grail Quest series* by Bernard Cornwell:** a spellbinding tale of a young man, a fearless archer, who sets out wanting to avenge his family's honor and winds up on a quest for the Holy Grail.

***The Saxon Stories* by Bernard Cornwell:** this is the story of the making of England in the 9th and 10th centuries, the years in which King Alfred the Great, his son and grandson defeated the Danish Vikings who had invaded and occupied three of England's four kingdoms.

FICTION – FANTASY

***Children of Blood and Bone* by Tomi Adeyemi:** By making tangible the power that comes from embracing one's heritage, Adeyemi conjures a story that resonates with magic both literal and figurative while condemning apathy in the face of injustice. Complex characters, colossal stakes, and a kaleidoscopic narrative captivate, and the book's punishing pace catapults readers to a jaw-dropping conclusion

***Elevation* by Stephen King:** The latest from legendary master storyteller Stephen King, a riveting, extraordinarily eerie, and moving story about a man whose mysterious affliction brings a small town together—a timely, upbeat tale about finding common ground despite deep-rooted differences.

Kate Daniels series by Ilona Andrews: Mercenary Kate Daniels cleans up urban problems of a paranormal kind. But her latest prey, a pack of undead warriors, presents her greatest challenge.

Uprooted by Naomi Novik: Based on Polish folklore, this stand-alone novel by Temeraire series author Naomi Novik, is a fantastical coming-of-age tale combining magic, warfare, politics, and romance.

SCIENCE-FICTION

The Consuming Fire by John Scalzi: Interdependency leader Emperox Grayland II races to safeguard humanity's interstellar empire from the collapse of the extra-dimensional conduit that billions depend on for survival.

The Expanse series by James S. A. Corey: This sweeping, fast-paced space opera series follows humanity's attempts to colonize beyond the solar system, where they face hostile aliens, dangerous biological elements, and the nefarious political forces controlling Earth's economy. Often led by spaceship captain Jim Holden, Expanse also features a compelling ensemble cast and draws together elements of military science fiction and noir detective stories.

Divergent by Veronica Roth: In a future Chicago, sixteen-year-old Beatrice Prior must choose among five predetermined factions to define her identity for the rest of her life, a decision made more difficult when she discovers that she is an anomaly who does not fit into any one group, and that the society she lives in is not perfect after all.

The Legend series by Marie Lu: Nothing's easy as teens fight against unjust class systems in this gripping science fiction trilogy. War, politics and intrigue provide non-stop action set in a convincingly portrayed, plague-ravaged futuristic Los Angeles with just enough star-crossed romance to add sizzle.

The Marrow Thieves by Cherie Dimaline: In a futuristic world ravaged by global warming, people have lost the ability to dream, and the dreamlessness has led to widespread madness. The only people still able to dream are North America's Indigenous people, and it is their marrow that holds the cure for the rest of the world.

The Chronicles of St. Mary's series by Jodi Taylor: Madeleine Maxwell, new recruit to St. Mary's Institute of Historical Research, discovers that the society members travel through time to thwart time-traveling terrorists and investigate major historical events.

NON FICTION

How to change your mind by Michael Pollan: The best-selling author of The Omnivore's Dilemma presents a ground-breaking investigation into the medical and scientific revolution currently taking place in the field of psychedelic drugs, drawing on a range of experiences to trace the criminalization of such substances as LSD and psychedelic mushrooms and how they may offer treatment options for difficult health challenges

Hunger, a Memoir of (My) Body by Roxanne Gay: The best-selling author of Bad Feminist presents a searingly frank memoir of food, weight, self-image and learning how to feed one's hunger in healthy ways, drawing on the popular essays of her long-running Tumblr blog to illuminate the challenges of navigating the boundaries between self-comfort and self-care.

Forgiveness by Mark Sakamoto: Heart-rending true story of Ralph MacLean and Sakamoto as the Second World War rips their lives and their humanity out of their grasp. But somehow, these two brave individuals surmounted such enormous transgressions and learned to forgive.

Now You're Talking by Trevore Cox: Now You're Talking explores the full range of our voice – how we speak and how we sing; how our vocal anatomy works; what happens when things go wrong; and how technology enables us to imitate and manipulate the human voice.

***One Child* by Torey L. Hayden:** Hayden recounts her battle to uncover the keen intelligence and touch the emotions of a troubled, sexually molested six-year-old girl who abused a younger child and was placed in her class for retarded preadolescents while awaiting space in a state institution.

***Other Minds: the Octopus, the Sea, and the Deep Origins of Consciousness* by Peter Godfrey-Smith:** The leading philosopher of science and award-winning author of *Darwinian Populations and Natural Selection* provides photos taken during his advanced scuba dives to share stories of cephalopod encounters and insights into how nature became self-aware.

***Spirals in time: the secret life and curious afterlife of seashells* by Helen Scales:** Seashells, stretching from the deep past into the present day, are touchstones leading into fascinating realms of the natural world and cutting-edge science.

***The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown:** For readers of Laura Hillenbrand's *Seabiscuit* and *Unbroken*, the dramatic story of the American rowing team that stunned the world at Hitler's 1936 Berlin Olympics.

***The Private Lives of the Impressionists* by Sue Roe:** A group portrait of the Impressionist artists traces how the movement's early leaders met in the studios of Paris and lived and worked together closely for several years, supporting one another through a series of emotional and financial difficulties.

***The Secret Lives of Color* by Kassia St. Clair:** The unforgettable, unknown history of colors and the vivid stories behind them in a beautiful multi-colored volume.

BIOGRAPHY

***Brain on Fire, my Month of Madness* by Susannah Cahalan:** An account of the author's struggle with a rare brain-attacking autoimmune disease traces how she woke up in a hospital room with no memory of baffling psychotic symptoms, describing the last-minute intervention by a doctor who identified the source of her illness.

***An Invisible Thread* by Laura Schroff:** The true story of the bond between a harried sales executive and an eleven-year-old boy who seemed destined for a life of poverty. It is the heartwarming story of a friendship that has spanned three decades and brought meaning to an over-scheduled professional and hope to a hungry and desperate boy living on the streets.

***The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid* by Bill Bryson:** From one of the most beloved and bestselling authors in the English language, a vivid, nostalgic, and utterly hilarious memoir of growing up in the 1950s

***Wild* by Cheryl Strayed:** A powerful, blazingly honest, inspiring memoir: the story of a 1,100 mile solo hike that broke down a young woman reeling from catastrophe--and built her back up again.

THE CLASSICS

***Invisible Cities* by Italo Calvino:** In Kublai Khan's garden, at sunset, the young Marco Polo diverts the aged emperor from his obsession with the impending end of his empire with tales of countless cities past, present, and future.

***Catch -22* by Joseph Heller:** Presents the contemporary classic depicting the struggles of a United States airman attempting to survive the lunacy and depravity of a World War II airbase.

***Rainbow Valley* by Lucy Maud Montgomery:** Anne Shirley is grown up, has married her beloved Gilbert, and is the mother of six. A strange family moves into an old nearby mansion, and the Meredith children join the Blythes in new adventures.

***A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens:** When the starving French masses rise to overthrow a corrupt and decadent government, both the guilty and innocent become victims of their frenzied anger.

***Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte:** In early nineteenth-century England, an orphaned young woman accepts employment as a governess and soon finds herself in love with her employer who has a terrible secret.

***The Mayor of Casterbridge* by Thomas Hardy:** In a drunken haze Michael Henchard sells his wife and child to a sailor for five guineas at the local fair. The next morning Henchard awakes, realizes the magnitude of what he has done, and swears he will not drink again. More than two decades later, Henchard has grown wealthy and is the Mayor of Casterbridge, but he can never escape the tragic repercussions of his past.

***The Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexander Dumas:** The story of Edmond Dantes, who is imprisoned in the island fortress of the Chateau d'If on a false political charge; after escaping, he finds the fabulous treasure of Monte Cristo and sets upon the course of revenge against his old enemies.

***Slaughterhouse Five* by Kurt Vonnegut:** Billy Pilgrim, a chaplain's assistant during the Second World War, returns home only to be kidnapped by aliens from the planet Tralfamadore, who teach him that time is an eternal present.

***The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood:** Offred, a Handmaid, describes life in what was once the United States, now the Republic of Gilead, a shockingly repressive and intolerant monotheocracy, in a satirical tour de force set in the near future.

***Trinity* by Leon Uris:** Recounts the interrelationships, clashes, and common concerns of the Catholic, hill-farming Larkins of Donegal, the aristocratic and British Hubbles, and the Scottish-Presbyterian MacLeods of Belfast during the years from the 1840's famine to the 1916 Easter Rising.

***The Tale of Peter Rabbit* by Beatrix Potter:** Peter disobeys his mother by going into Mr. McGregor's garden and almost gets caught.

***The Gruffalo* by Julia Donaldson:** A clever mouse uses the threat of a terrifying creature to keep from being eaten by a fox, an owl, and a snake--only to have to outwit that creature as well.