



***The Accidental* / Ali Smith**

Set #24

Amber, 30-something, and a stranger, shows up at the door of the Norfolk cottage that the Smarts are renting for the summer. As Amber insinuates herself into the family, the question of who she is fades away. Dazzled by her seeming exoticism, the Smarts begin to examine their own lives.

***All My Puny Sorrows* / Miriam Toews**

Set #65

Elfrieda, a world-renowned pianist, is glamorous, happily married and wants to die. Yolandi, her younger sister is divorced, broke, and desperately wants to keep her older sister alive. As the situation becomes ever more complicated, Yoli faces the most terrifying decision of her life.

***American Dervish* / Ayad Akhtar**

Set #44

Hayat, a young Pakistani boy now living in America, finds transformation through a family friend, Mina. But when Mina begins dating a man, Hayat feels betrayed and is compelled to act – with devastating consequences for all those he loves most.

***An Atlas of Impossible Longing* / Anuradha Roy**

Set #21

Mukunda, an adopted orphan boy and Bakul, the motherless granddaughter of the house, grow up together in Bengal. As they grow, their closeness matures into something else, and Mukunda is banished to Calcutta. He prospers in the turbulent years after Partition, but his thoughts stay with Bakul and he knows that he must return.

***Atlas of Unknowns* / Tania James**

Set #30

In the wake of their mother's mysterious death, sisters Linno and Anju are raised in Kerala by their father. Both girls dream of coming to the United States, but it is Anju who wins a scholarship to a prestigious school by betraying her sister. When Anju's lies are eventually exposed, her future crumbles and she runs away. Meanwhile, Linno has built a career in Kerala and, despite her sister's betrayal, resolves to find Anju and bring her home.

***Beauty of Humanity Movement* / Camilla Gibb**

Set #31

Tu' is a young tour guide working in Hanoi who meets Maggie who is Vietnamese by birth but has lived most of her life in the U.S. She has returned to her country of origin in search of clues to her dissident father's disappearance during the war. Weaving the story together is Old Man Hung who has found a way to feed hope and pho to his community of pondside dwellers.

***Behind the Beautiful Forevers* / Katherine Boo (non-fiction)**

Set #55

In the shadow of luxury hotels near the Mumbai airport, Abdul, an enterprising Muslim teenager, sees a fortune in the recyclable garbage that richer people throw away. But when he is falsely accused in a shocking tragedy, and terror and a global recession rock the city, suppressed tensions over religion, caste, sex, power and economic envy turn brutal.

***Behold the Dreamers* / Imbolo Mbue (NEW)**

Set #95

In the fall of 2007, Jende Jonga, an immigrant living in Harlem, lands a job as a chauffeur for a senior executive at Lehman Brothers. Jende's economic situation improves when his wife Neni is hired as household help. But in the course of their work, Jende and Neni begin to witness infidelities, skirmishes, and family secrets. Then, with the collapse of Lehman Brothers, a tragedy changes their lives forever.

***Black Swan Green* / David Mitchell**

Set #22

It is January, 1982 and thirteen-year-old Jason Taylor – covert stammerer and reluctant poet – anticipates a stultifying year in his backwater English village. But he hasn't reckoned with bullies, simmering family discord, the Falklands War, a threatened gypsy invasion and those mysterious entities known as girls.

***The Break* / Katherena Vermette**

Set #77

When Stella, a young Métis mother in Winnipeg looks out her window one evening and spots someone in trouble on the Break, a barren field on an isolated strip of land outside her house, she calls the police to alert them to a possible crime. In a series of shifting narratives, people who are connected both directly and indirectly with the victim, tell their personal stories leading up to that fateful night.

***Brother* / David Chariandy (NEW)**

Set #94

Set in a housing complex during the sweltering heat of a Toronto summer, two brothers, sons of Trinidadian immigrants, battle against the prejudices and low expectations that confront them as young men of black and brown ancestry. But their bright hopes are violently, irrevocably thwarted by a tragic shooting, and the police crackdown and suspicion that follows.

***Burial Rites* / Hannah Kent**

Set #56

Inspired by a true story and set against the stark landscape of nineteenth century Iceland, this book tells of the final days of Agnes Magnúsdóttir, a young woman accused of murdering her employer. She is sent to an isolated farmhouse to await her execution and there she meets a young priest who is given the task of preparing Agnes for her death.

***The Burgess Boys* / Elizabeth Strout**

Set #57

Catalyzed by a nephew's thoughtless prank, a pair of brothers confronts painful psychological issues surrounding the freak accident that killed their father when they were boys – a loss linked to a heartbreaking deception that shaped their personal and professional lives.

***Come, Thou Tortoise* / Jessica Grant**

Set #17

This debut novel tells a delightfully off-beat story that features an opinionated tortoise, Winnifred, and an IQ-challenged narrator who find themselves in the middle of a life-changing mystery.

***The Conjoined* / Jen Sookfong Lee**

Set #78

Vancouverite Jessica Campbell is clearing her mother's house after her death and makes a shocking discovery. In the basement she finds the bodies of two dead girls curled into the bottom of the freezers. The complicated truths she uncovers force her to take stock of own life – her grief, a job she hates, and her tedious but safe relationship.

***Constellation of Vital Phenomena* / Anthony Marra**

Set #45

Eight-year-old Havaa, the neighbour Akhmed who rescues her after her father's disappearance in war torn Chechnya, and Sonia, the doctor who shelters her over five dramatic days, must all reach back into their pasts to unravel the intricate mystery of coincidence, betrayal and forgiveness which

unexpectedly binds them and decides their fate.

Cool Water / Dianne Warren

Set #26

Juliet, Saskatchewan sits at the edge of the Little Snake sand hills. The heart of the town beats in the rich and overlapping stories of its people, and their stories bring the prairie desert and the town to vivid and enduring life. This wonderfully entertaining, witty and deeply felt novel brims with forgiveness as its flawed people stumble towards the future.

Dancehall Years / Joan Haggerty (NEW)

Set #96

This complex family saga begins one summer on Bowen Island during the Depression and moves through Pearl Harbour, the forced evacuation of the Japanese and three generations into the 1980s. The island's dance hall, a well-known destination for both soldiers on leave and summer visitors, becomes the emotional landmark for time passing and time remembered.

The Dinner / Herman Koch

Set #46

Paul Lohman and his wife Claire are going out to dinner with Paul's brother Serge – a charismatic and ambitious politician – and his wife Babette. As the evening wears on it becomes clear that tonight's dinner will be even more difficult than usual as they find out about the very bad thing their teenage sons have done.

Do Not Say We Have Nothing / Madeleine Thien (NEW)

Set #92

In Canada in 1991, ten-year-old Marie and her mother invite a guest into their home: a young woman who has fled China in the aftermath of the Tiananmen Square protests. She tells Marie the story of her family in Revolutionary China, where three musicians, the shy and brilliant composer Sparrow, the violin prodigy Zhuli, and the enigmatic pianist Kai, struggle during China's Cultural Revolution to remain loyal to one another and to the music they have devoted their lives.

Dubious Salvation of Jack V / Jacques Strauss

Set #47

It's 1989, and in the dying years of the Apartheid regime, eleven-year-old Jack Viljee, the son of an Afrikaans father and an English mother relies, on the family's beloved maid, Susie. But the household is upset by the arrival of Percy, Susie's petulant fifteen-year old son. After one particularly humiliating event, Jack betrays Susie and learns that even the most childish act can avalanche beyond his most outlandish imaginings.

Elegance of the Hedgehog / Muriel Barbery

Set #8

Contrary to her outward appearance, Renée, the concierge for an elegant apartment building in Paris, is a woman who adores art, philosophy, music, and Japanese culture. Twelve-year-old Paloma, one of the residents, is a talented and startlingly lucid child who has decided to end her life on her thirteenth birthday. When a wealthy Japanese man named Ozu arrives in the building, Paloma and Renée discover their kindred souls.

Everybody has Everything / Katrina Onstad

Set #32

After a car crash Ana and James are shocked to discover that they have become the legal guardians of their friends' young child. His presence throws into high relief deeply rooted, and sometimes long-hidden, truths about themselves, both individually and as a couple. Several chaotic, poignant, and life-changing weeks give rise to an often unasked question: Can everyone be a parent?

Exit West / Mohsin Hamad (NEW)

Set #97

In a country teetering on the brink of civil war, Nadia and Saeed meet and embark on a furtive love affair. When their city explodes, they begin to hear whispers about doors that can whisk people far away, for a price. As violence escalates, they decide that they no longer have a choice. Leaving their

homeland and their old lives behind, they find a door and step through it.

Family Fang / Kevin Wilson

Set #40

For as long as they can remember, the Fang children have starred (unwillingly) in their parents' madcap performance art pieces. But now that they are grown up, the chaos of their childhood has made it difficult to cope with life outside the fishbowl of their parents' strange world. When the lives they've built come crashing down, brother and sister have nowhere to go but home, where they discover that their parents are planning one last performance.

February / Lisa Moore

Set #48

Helen O'Mara's life is divided between her everyday existence as mother and grandmother and her internal memories and reflections on her life with her late husband Cal, who died long ago aboard the oil rig Ocean Ranger. Then Helen's wayward son John returns home, asking his mother to help him decide how to deal with his girlfriend's pregnancy.

Galore / Michael Crummey

Set #33

A family saga and love story set in the improbable world that was rural Newfoundland. Remote and isolated, exposed to extremes of climate and fate, the people of Paradise Deep persist in a realm where the line between the everyday and the otherworldly is hard to distinguish.

Golden Mean / Annabel Lyon

Set #14

Aristotle must postpone his dream of succeeding Plato at the Academy in Athens when he is forced to tutor Alexander, a prince of Macedon. Aristotle's resentment at his situation is soon overcome by the boy's intellectual potential and his capacity for surprise.

Good to a Fault / Marina Endicott

Set #12

Clara Purdy is forty-three and single. Driving to the bank during her lunch hour, she crashes into a sharp left turn, taking the Gage family in the other car with her. When bruises on the mother, Lorraine, prove to be late-stage cancer, Clara unexpectedly moves Lorraine's three children into her own house – and then has to cope with the consequences of practical goodness, and whether goodness is her only motivation.

H is for Hawk / Helen Macdonald (non-fiction)

Set #67

In this original blend of memoir, biography and nature writing, Cambridge professor and falconer Macdonald adopts and trains a goshawk called Mabel, a notoriously difficult bird, as a way to cope with the grief of her father's death.

Handmaid's Tale / Margaret Atwood (NEW)

Set #89

In the world of the near future, Offred is a Handmaid in the home of the Commander and his wife. She is allowed out daily to buy food, and hopes that the Commander makes her pregnant, because she is only valued if her ovaries are viable. She remembers the years before, when she was an independent woman, had a job of her own, a husband and child. But all of that is gone now and everything has changed.

Hare with Amber Eyes / Edmund De Waal (non-fiction)

Set #42

The Ephrussi were a grand banking family in nineteenth-century Paris and Vienna society. Yet by the end of World War II, almost the only thing remaining of their vast empire was a collection of netsuke. The renowned ceramicist Edmund de Waal became the fifth generation to inherit the small and exquisite collection and, entranced by their beauty and mystery, he determined to trace the story of his family through the collection.

How it all Began / Penelope Lively

Set #34

The mugging of a retired schoolteacher on a London street has unexpected repercussions for her friends and neighbours when it inadvertently reveals an illicit love affair, leads to a business partnership and helps an immigrant to reinvent his life.

How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia / Mohsin Hamid

Set #58

The tale of a man's journey from impoverished rural boy to corporate tycoon borrows from the business self-help books devoured by youths all over 'rising Asia.' It follows its nameless hero to the metropolis where he builds his empire on water. Yet his heart is set on the pretty girl whose star rises along with his, their paths re-crossing, in a lifelong affair sparked by the forces that careen their fates along.

Hunting and Gathering / Anna Gavalda

Set #35

The captivating, funny and tenderly ironic story of a collection of misfits in contemporary Paris – a near-anorexic artist, a chef, his granny, and a sad-sack aristocrat – who together become something more than the sum of their parts. As a curious, damaged quartet they may be able to face the world.

I Saw a Man / Owen Sheers

Set #68

What happens that drastically changes the lives of lonely widower Michael Turner and the family next door that has befriended him? A tense, intelligent page-turner that is also an unusual examination of grief, responsibility and redemption.

The Illegal / Lawrence Hill

Set #79

Keita Ali is on the run and desperate to flee Zantoroland, a mountainous island that produces the fastest marathoners in the world. He signs on with a notorious marathon agent who provides Keita with a chance to run the Boston marathon. But when Keita fails to place among the top finishers, rather than being sent back to his own country, he goes into hiding.

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks (non-fiction) / Rebecca Skloot

Set #59

This book chronicles the life of the young African American woman whose cancerous cervical tissue became the first in history which could be successfully grown as culture. The contrast between the poor Lacks family who cannot afford their medical bills and the research establishments who have made millions from these cells is tragic.

In the Dark / Deborah Moggach

Set #5

Eithne Clay runs a dreary boarding house in London at the end of the First World War. Into her life comes Neville Turk, a lusty butcher with an eye for both the recently widowed Eithne and her real estate. He woos her with prime cuts of meat, but has sinister plans for her boarding house.

The Inconvenient Indian / Thomas King (non-fiction)

Set #60

In this critical and personal meditation the remarkable Thomas King writes about what it means to be "Indian" in North America. Rich with dark and light, pain and magic, this book distills the insights gleaned from that meditation, weaving the curiously circular tale of the relationship between non-Natives and Natives in the centuries since the two first encountered each other.

Kitchens of the Great Midwest / J. Ryan Stradal

Set #69

When Lars Thorvald's wife falls in love with a dashing sommelier, he's left to raise their baby, Eva, on his own. Inheriting his love of food, Eva finds her solace and salvation in the flavors of her native Minnesota as she becomes the star chef behind a legendary and secretive pop-up supper club.

Let the Great World Spin / Colum McCann

Set #23

It is August, 1974, and a tightrope walker performs a quarter-mile high in the sky, on a line suspended between the two towers of the World Trade Centre. In the city below, characters' lives intersect: Corrigan, a radical young Irish monk, struggles with his own demons; a group of mothers gather in a Park Avenue apartment to mourn their sons who died in Vietnam and Tillie, a thirty-eight-year-old grandmother, turns tricks alongside her teenage daughter.

The Lieutenant / Kate Grenville

Set #2

In 1787 Lieutenant Thomas Rooke, officer and astronomer, sets sail from Portsmouth with the First Fleet and its cargo of convicts destined for New South Wales. As the newcomers struggle to establish a settlement, Rooke comes to know the aboriginal people and forges a remarkable connection with one child which will change his life in ways he never imagined.

Life after Life / Kate Atkinson

Set #70

Ursula Todd is born on a cold snowy night in 1910 -- twice. As she grows up during the first half of the twentieth century in Britain, Ursula dies and is brought back to life again and again. With a seemingly infinite number of lives, it appears as though Ursula has the ability to alter the history of the world should she so choose.

The Lonely City / Olivia Lane (non-fiction)

Set #80

This roving, cultural history of urban loneliness is centered on the ultimate city: Manhattan, that teeming island of concrete and glass. What does it mean to be lonely? How do we live, if we're not intimately involved with another human being? Part memoir, part biography, this book is a celebration of the state of loneliness.

Madonnas of Leningrad / Debra Dean

Set #4

Struggling with Alzheimer's, Marina recalls her work at the Hermitage Museum and the saving of its paintings during the Siege of Leningrad. This is an unforgettable tale of love, survival and the power of imagination.

Manhattan Beach / Jennifer Egan (NEW)

Set #91

Interconnected narratives tell the story of young Anna whose beloved father disappears during the Depression while working for the mob. Later, during World War II, she becomes the first female diver at the Brooklyn Naval Yard, repairing ships under water. Then a chance meeting at a nightclub with a man from her father's past helps her understand the complexity of her father's life and the reasons he might have vanished.

Medicine Walk / Richard Wagamese

Set #71

Set in the dramatic landscape of the BC interior, sixteen year-old Franklin Starlight is called to visit his father, Eldon, a man he barely knows. The rare moments they have shared trouble Frank but he answers the call, to find Eldon dying of liver failure after years of heavy drinking. Eldon asks his son to take him into the mountains so he may be buried in the traditional Ojibway manner.

Memory of Love / Aminatta Forna

Set #36

Elias Cole first catches sight of Saffia Kamara, the wife of a charismatic colleague, in Sierra Leone. Thirty years later, lying in the capital's hospital, he recalls the desire that drove him to acts of betrayal he has tried to justify ever since. Elsewhere in the hospital, Kai, a gifted young surgeon, is trying to forget the pain of a lost love that torments him as much as the mental scars he still bears from the civil war. It falls to a British psychologist to help the two survivors, but when he too falls in love past and present collide with devastating consequences.

Miller's Valley / Anna Quindlen

Set #81

Growing up in the 1960s as a young girl in Miller's Valley – an ordinary farming town that may be facing its final days – Mimi is observing adults, selling corn, and watching the world around her change. This novel takes us through the changing eras of Mimi and her family, as their secrets are revealed, and the heartbreaks of growing up and falling in love with the wrong man are overcome.

Miss Emily / Nuala O'Connor

Set #72

Despite their differences in age and the upstairs-downstairs divide in the family, Irish maid Ada Concannon strikes up a deep friendship with Miss Emily Dickinson, the gifted elder daughter living a spinster's life at home. But Emily's passion for words begins to dominate her life, and when Ada's safety and reputation are threatened, Emily must face down her own demons in order to help her friend, with shocking consequences.

My Name is Lucy Barton / Elizabeth Strout

Set # 82

It is the mid-1980s and Lucy Barton is recovering slowly from what should have been a simple operation. Her mother, to whom she hasn't spoken for many years, comes to see her and a simple hospital visit becomes a portal to the most tender relationship of all – the one between mother and daughter.

News Where You Are / Catherine O'Flynn

Set #27

This heart-breaking, yet hilarious novel tells the story of Frank, an aging local TV news presenter in England. Beneath his awkwardly corny screen persona, Frank is haunted by, among other things, the unmarked passing of those who die alone in the city. The result is that rare thing: a page-turning novel that asks the big questions in an accessible way and is laugh-out-loud funny, genuinely moving and ultimately uplifting.

North of Normal / Cea Sunrise Person (non-fiction)

Set #83

This compelling memoir tells of a childhood spent with a dysfunctional family in the Canadian wilderness. In 1970, Cea was born to a 16-year-old Californian who had moved with her counterculture parents to the backwoods of western Canada to live off the grid and lead a nomadic life. It is a searing story of physical, emotional, and psychological survival and a testament to the resilience of children faced with appalling neglect.

Old Filth / Jane Gardam

Set #9

Edward Feathers aka Filth (Failed in London Try Hong Kong), an international lawyer now retired to England, reminisces on his life after the death of his wife. Brilliantly constructed - going backwards and forwards in time, yet constantly working towards the secret at its core -- 'Old Filth' is funny and heart-breaking.

Our Souls at Night / Kent Haruf

Set #73

In Holt, Colorado, widower Louis Waters is initially thrown when the widowed Addie Moore suggests that they spend time together, in bed at night, to stave off loneliness. Soon they are exchanging the confidences and memories of lives now empty of family and their hopes for the imminent future.

The Outcast / Sadie Jones

Set #25

In 1950s England the tragic death of his mother leaves ten-year-old Lewis deeply isolated. Ignored by his grief-stricken father, an act of inarticulate anger gets Lewis two years in prison for arson. On his return home, the only person who seems to understand him is Kit, the daughter of his father's boss and also an outsider. Mutual distrust between Lewis and the locals grows, but Kit may be able to save Lewis.

Paris Wife / Paula McLain

Set #41

Meeting through mutual friends in Chicago, Hadley is intrigued by brash "beautiful boy" Ernest Hemingway. After a brief courtship and small wedding, they take off for Paris, where she strives to hold on to her sense of self as her roles of wife, friend and muse grow ever more challenging.

Practical Jean / Trevor Cole

Set #37

This is a deeply humorous and revelatory tale of an ordinary, small-town woman with the usual challenges of middle age – a do-nothing husband and a family that refuses to understand her – who realizes her fondest wish is to protect her dearest friends from the indignities of aging and illness. And that's when she decides to kill them!

Quiet: the power of introspection / Susan Cain (non-fiction)

Set #84

This book demonstrates how introverted people are misunderstood and undervalued in modern culture. It charts the rise of extrovert ideology while sharing anecdotal examples of how to use introvert talents to adapt to various situations. From Van Gogh's sunflowers to the invention of the personal computer, it is to introverts we owe many of the great contributions to society.

Rainbow Troops / Andrea Hirata

Set #51

This is the inspiring and closely autobiographical tale of the trials and tribulations that ten motley students (nicknamed the Rainbow Troops) and two teachers from an elementary school on Belitung Island, Indonesia, undergo to ensure the continuation of the children's education. The poverty-stricken school suffers the constant threat of closure by government officials, greedy corporations, natural disasters and the students' own lack of self-confidence.

Room / Emma Donoghue

Set #20

Narrator Jack and his mother, who was kidnapped seven years earlier when she was a college student, celebrate his fifth birthday. They live in a tiny, 11-foot-square soundproofed cell in a converted shed in the kidnapper's yard. The sociopath, whom Jack has dubbed Old Nick, visits at night, grudgingly doling out food and supplies. But Ma, as Jack calls her, proves to be resilient and resourceful – and attempts a nail-biting escape.

Secret Daughter / Shilpi Somaya

Set #15

This novel tells the stories of a baby girl in India, the American doctor who adopted her, and the Indian mother who gave her up in favour of a son. Two families – one in India, the other in the United States – are changed by the child that connects them.

Secret Scripture / Sebastian Barry

Set #11

Roseanne McNulty, is an elderly patient at Roscommon Regional Mental Hospital in Ireland. As her hundredth year draws near, she records the events of her life, hiding the manuscript beneath the floorboards. Meanwhile, the hospital is preparing to close and is evaluating its patients to determine whether they can return to society. Dr. Grene, takes a special interest in her case and as doctor and patient attempt to understand each other, they begin to uncover long-buried secrets about themselves.

Seven Fallen Feathers: Racism, Deaths and Hard Truths in a Northern City / Tanya Talaga
(NEW)

Set #90

Over the span of ten years, seven high school students died in Thunder Bay, Ontario. The seven were hundreds of miles away from their families, forced to leave their reserve because there was no high school there for them to attend. Award-winning journalist Tanya Talaga delves into the history of this northern city that has come to manifest, and struggle with, human rights violations past and present against aboriginal communities.

Shanghai Girls / Lisa See

Set #13

In 1937, Shanghai is the Paris of Asia, a city of great wealth and glamour. Twenty-one-year-old Pearl Chin and her younger sister May are having the time of their lives until their father tells them that he has gambled away their wealth. To repay his debts, he must sell the girls as wives to suitors from Los Angeles. As Japanese bombs fall on their beloved city, Pearl and May set out on the journey of a lifetime, from the Chinese countryside to the shores of America.

The Silent Wife / A.S.A Harrison

Set #61

Jodi and Todd are at a bad place in their marriage. Much is at stake, including the affluent life they lead in their beautiful waterfront condo in Chicago, as she, the killer, and he, the victim, rush haplessly toward the main event. Told in alternating voices, this is about a marriage in the throes of dissolution, a couple headed for catastrophe, concessions that can't be made, and promises that won't be kept.

State of Wonder / Ann Patchett

Set #38

Marina Singh, who has given up her medical practice for the relative quiet of pharmaceutical research, finds her world upturned when she's suddenly sent to the Amazon. A field team there, working on a new drug, has been unresponsive for two years, and Marina's colleague Anders, who has gone to investigate, is reported dead.

Station Eleven / Emily St. John Mandel

Set #74

One snowy night a famous Hollywood actor dies on-stage during a production of King Lear. Hours later, the world as we know it begins to dissolve. Moving back and forth in time, this novel charts the strange twists of fate that connect five people: the actor, the man who tried to save him, the actor's first wife, his oldest friend, and a young actress with the Travelling Symphony, caught in the cross-hairs of a dangerous self-proclaimed prophet.

Strawberry Fields / Marina Lewycka

Set #7

Two young Ukrainians discover romance and adventure as they travel the United Kingdom with a group of migrant workers. As they move through the inglorious work places of England they also discover insecurity, hideous working conditions, isolation, sexual abuse, meagre wages and scams. A hard hitting story made palatable by its very funny, sometimes farcical, moments.

Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie / Alan Bradley

Set #16

This mystery novel introduces Flavia de Luce, an eleven-year-old with a penchant for poison that she nurtures to defend herself from her nasty older sisters. One day, while searching for ingredients, Flavia discovers a dead body in the cucumber patch.

A Tale for the Time Being / Ruth Ozeki

Set #54

In Tokyo, sixteen-year-old Nao has decided to escape her aching loneliness and her classmates' bullying by starting a diary. Across the Pacific, Ruth, a novelist living on a remote island, discovers a collection of artifacts washed ashore in a child's lunchbox – possibly debris from the 2011 tsunami. As the mystery of its contents unfolds, Ruth is pulled into the past, into Nao's drama and her unknown fate, and forward into her own future.

Tell it to the Trees / Anita Rau Badami

Set #39

The discovery of the frozen body of their tenant in the backyard of the Dharma family's isolated northern B.C. home starts the gradual unfolding of the events leading up to the death. Told from the perspectives of the family's two children, the mother, and the tenant herself through her journal, it is a chilling glimpse into the devastating effects of domestic abuse, secrets, and isolation both social and geographical.

***Tell the Wolves I'm Home* / Carol Brunt**

Set #52

It is 1987, and only one person has ever truly understood fourteen-year-old June Elbus – her uncle, the renowned painter Finn Weiss. So when he dies of a mysterious illness her mother can barely speak about, June's world is turned upside down. But Finn's death brings a surprise acquaintance into June's life – someone who will help her to heal and to question what she thinks she knows about Finn.

***This Is How It Always Is* / Laurie Frankel (NEW)**

Set #87

When Rosie and Penn and their four boys welcome the newest member of their family, no one is surprised it's another baby boy. But Claude is not like his brothers. One day he puts on a dress and refuses to take it off and when he grows up, he says, he wants to be a girl. Rosie and Penn aren't panicked at first. Kids go through phases, after all, and make-believe is fun. But soon the entire family is keeping Claude's secret, until one day it explodes.

***Three Souls* / Janie Chang**

Set #62

Behind the magnificent gates of the Song family estate in China, the Civil War upheaval has not touched Leiying, a spoiled and idealistic teenager whose punishment for disobedience leads to exile from her family and an untimely death. Now a ghost, Leiying must make amends to earn entry to the afterlife. But when her young daughter faces a dangerous future, Leiying has to make a heart-wrenching choice.

***Through Black Spruce* / Joseph Boyden**

Set #29

When beautiful Suzanne Bird disappears, her sister Annie, a loner and hunter, is compelled to search for her, leaving behind their uncle Will, a man haunted by loss. While Annie travels from Toronto to New York, from modeling studios to A-list parties, Will encounters dire troubles at home. Both eventually come to painful discoveries about the inescapable ties of family.

***Tigers in Red Weather* / Liza Klaussman**

Set #53

Nick and her cousin Helena have grown up with midnight gin parties in Martha's Vineyard on an old family estate known as Tiger House. At the end of WWII, their lives diverge and now with children of their own, they try to recapture those old summer days. But when the children discover the victim of a brutal murder on the estate, the intrusion of violence causes everything to unravel.

***Translation of Love* / Lynne Kutsukake**

Set #85

Two coming-of-age girls meet at school in Tokyo during the American occupation after World War II. Aya, a repatriate from Vancouver is new to the school, and Fumi, charged with looking after her, has an older sister, Sumiko, who has disappeared. Interwoven with the stories of the two girls is that of Fumi's missing sister who had become a GI dance girl to keep the family afloat.

***The Turner House* / Angela Flournoy**

Set #75

The story of the thirteen children of Francis and Viola Turner who now have to decide what to do with the family home in east-side Detroit, when an ailing Viola is forced to leave the home she has lived in for fifty years and move in with her son.

***Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox* / Maggie O'Farrell**

Set #6

Set between the 1930s, and the present, this is the story of Esme, a woman edited out of her family's history, and of the secrets that come to light when, sixty years later, she is released from institutional care, and a young woman, Iris, discovers the great aunt she never knew she had.

We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves / Karen Joy Fowler

Set #63

Coming of age in middle America, 18-year-old Rosemary evaluates how her entire youth was defined by the presence and forced removal of an endearing chimpanzee who was secretly regarded as a family member and whom Rosemary loved as a sister.

We're All in This Together / Amy Jones

Set #86

While suffering through the early stages of dementia, Grandmother Kate Parker purposely sends herself over Thunder Bay's Kakabeka Falls in a whiskey barrel. She miraculously survives but falls into a coma, which brings her daughter home and causes her adopted son to worry he's losing the only real family he's ever known.

We Need New Names / NoViolet Bulawayo

Set #64

Darling is only ten years old, and must navigate a fragile and violent world. In Zimbabwe, she and her friends grasp at memories of before their homes were destroyed, their school closed, and their fathers left for dangerous jobs abroad. Darling has a chance to escape to America in search of its famous abundance, only to find that her options as an immigrant are perilously few.

When the Moon is Low / Nadia Hashim

Set #76

The happy, middle-class world of Afghan Mahmoud and his wife, Fereiba, implodes when their country is engulfed in war and the Taliban rises to power. Mahmoud, a civil engineer, is murdered by the new fundamentalist regime. Forced to flee Kabul with her three children, Fereiba will face an impossible choice.

Women in the Castle / Jessica Shattuck (NEW)

Set #88

Three German women's lives are abruptly changed when their husbands are executed for their part in an attempt to assassinate Hitler. They band together in a crumbling Bavarian castle to raise their children and keep each other standing. The book is narrated by each of the women, giving us a clear understanding of their sense of loss, inner strength and the love they have for each other.

Book Club Set Information

Book club sets consist of ten copies of a single title available for an extended loan period of six weeks. Each set comes with short review(s), an author biography and a list of questions to get your group started on discussion. The books and accompanying material are packaged in a canvas carrying bag.

Book club sets will be signed out to a single BPL library card holder who will be responsible for ensuring that:

- the set is returned on time
- all items are returned with the set
- all items in the set are returned in good condition

You may borrow a maximum of two sets at a time and renewals are not permitted. Book club sets may be reserved online via our library catalogue for pick up at any BPL branch. Sets can be returned to any BPL location.

Frequently asked questions

How many book club sets may be borrowed at a time?

You may have a maximum of two book club sets on your card at one time.

How do I find a book club set in the library catalogue?

In the search box type book club set.

Can I place a hold on book club sets?

Yes, you can place a hold on a book club set via the online catalogue and have it sent to your preferred Burnaby Public Library location for pickup.

How long can I keep a book club set?

The loan period for a set is six weeks. Book club sets may not be renewed. A fine of \$1 per day will be charged for an overdue set or the partial return of a set, to a maximum of \$20.

Can a book club set be held for a specific meeting?

No. Due to the number of interested book clubs, we cannot take advance bookings for these sets. Sets are available on a first-come, first-served basis only.

Can book club sets be returned in a book drop?

No. Book club sets must be returned to the check-in desk at any Burnaby Public Library location during open hours. Sets cannot be returned through the book drop or to another public library system. Overdue fines are \$1 per day per set, to a maximum of \$20.

Can individual book club members return their own books to the library?

No. The representative who borrows the set is responsible for returning a complete book club set.

What if a book is lost?

A \$15 replacement cost for a lost or damaged book will be charged to the responsible patron's card. A \$10 replacement charge will be added to the library card for loss or damage to the canvas bag. \$150 (plus a \$7 processing fee) will be charged for the loss or damage of the entire set.