

## Nonfiction

*The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness*

at *the Fair that Changed America* by Erik Larson

Subtitled “Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair that Changed America,” this engrossing book interweaves the fascinating story of the building of the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition in Chicago with the creepy true tale of serial killer Dr. H.H. Holmes. The story alternates between the architects’ challenges and the murderer’s plotting, and the suspense builds... (audio; large print)

*West with the Night* by Beryl Markham

In this lyrical memoir, Markham vividly evokes her adventures as a groundbreaking pilot and horse trainer in Kenya in the early 20th century. (audio; large print)

*The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt’s Darkest Journey* by Candice Millard

The true story of Theodore Roosevelt’s incredible journey down one of most dangerous rivers on earth. It is an unbelievable tale of exploration and incredible hardship, as he and his men discover an unmapped tributary of the Amazon River. (audio; large print)

*The Soul of an Octopus* by Sy Montgomery

A creature one would think has not much in common with us, the octopus species has remarkably different personalities. They are intelligent, affectionate, playful, and even sneaky (think Fido on the forbidden couch, after you leave the house). An enchanting National Book Award Finalist.

*Yes, Chef: A Memoir* by Marcus Samuelsson

World-renowned chef Marcus Samuelsson chronicles his life from early childhood in Ethiopia to his formative years in Sweden to his rousing culinary success in the United States. (audio; large print)

*The Distancers: An American Memoir* by Lee Sandlin

A beautiful story about the authors German immigrant ancestors who settled on a farm in the Midwest. In the process of researching his genealogy he shakes his family tree and discovers what his ancestors endured and how they survived. (audio)

*The End of Your Life Book Club* by Will Schwalbe

The story of a son and his mother who create a book club after she is diagnosed with advanced pancreatic cancer. Over the course of two years they discuss not only books, but life as well, and become closer. (audio; large print)

*Crossing the Heart of Africa: An Odyssey of Love and Adventure* by Julian Smith

Inspired by Victorian explorer Ewart Grogan, the author sets out on a similar journey—a 4000-mile walk across Africa through eight countries. The stories of their travels are interwoven throughout the book, nearly a century apart, both inspired by history, adventure, and love. (audio)

*Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson

This searing indictment of the American justice system covers the inspiring story of Stevenson’s battle, as founder of the Equal Justice Initiative, to defend “hopeless cases,” freeing people from excessive punishment or wrongful convictions. The overarching narrative focuses on an African-American man on death row for killing a white woman despite credible evidence to the contrary. (audio)

*Lost in Shangri-La* by Michael Zuckoff

A fast-paced story of a transport plane, carrying 24 officers and enlisted men and women, that crashed in the South Pacific during World War II. Three survived, only to face a harrowing journey of survival in the jungle until they could be rescued. (audio)

# Book Discussion Sure Bets

## Fiction

*The Truth and Other Lies* by Sascha Arango

It’s Henry Hayden’s name on the cover of his best-selling novels, but it’s his wife who writes them. Now his mistress is pregnant and Henry has to make a decision. “One wicked tale...with schemers all around” (Kirkus).

*The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake* by Aimee Bender

As a child, Rose discovers she can taste the emotions of the person who cooked the food she eats—which often discloses people’s secrets. She narrates this story about her unusual family and their unexpected talents. (audio; large print)

*Bliss, Remembered* by Frank Deford

In this fictional memoir, 87-year-old Sydney is dying and decides to tell her son about an early part of her life, starting with her time as a swimmer, when she attended the 1936 Olympics in Berlin and fell in love with an assistant to Leni Riefenstahl. Entertaining and thought-provoking. (audio; large print)

*The Sisters Brothers* by Patrick DeWitt

When the Sisters brothers—professional hit men in the old West—agree to do “one last job,” things go horribly awry. Funny and irreverent and shortlisted for the Booker Prize. (How often does that happen with a Western?) (audio; large print)

*Middlesex* by Jeffrey Eugenides

A Pulitzer Prize winning novel, this compelling book spans three generations. Told with humor and pathos, it tells the story of Cal, who grew into a man but was born a girl. (audio; large print)

*Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* by Jonathan Safran Foer

After his father’s death in the 9/11 attacks, precocious 9-year-old Oskar tries to unravel the mystery of a key his father left behind. By turns funny and sad, this story is told by Oskar, his grandmother, and his long-lost grandfather. (audio)

*We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves* by Karen Joy Fowler

Rosemary’s story begins when she is arrested; from there the tragedy at the heart of her family is slowly revealed. A moving tale of familial love and loss that examines the bonds of sisterhood. For full impact, avoid reading spoilers. (audio; large print)

*Good Omens* by Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett

Armageddon is coming, but demon Crowley and angel Aziraphale have become friends and Baby Satan is misplaced—what now? This collaboration by Brits Gaiman and Pratchett has been called “irreverently funny and unexpectedly wise.” (audio)

*The Humans* by Matt Haig

An extra-terrestrial comes to Earth with a mission to save humans from themselves. Thought-provoking and darkly humorous. (audio; large print)

*May We Be Forgiven* by A. M. Homes

A darkly humorous book about two brothers, Harold and George, and how their lives are forever changed after a crisis. Harold is thrust into new role as caregiver to his parents and father to his brother’s children—all the while transforming his own life. (audio)

*The Sherlockian* by Graham Moore

When the world’s leading Arthur Conan Doyle scholar is found murdered, recent Sherlock Holmes enthusiast society inductee Harold White takes up the search for the killer.



## Fiction, continued

*We Have Always Lived in the Castle* by Shirley Jackson

The very strange Blackwoods—18-year-old Mary Katherine (who narrates the story), her sister Constance, and their uncle Julian—live in seclusion in their family mansion, scorned by the townspeople who fear them following a horrific event. A contemporary classic. (audio)

*The Report* by Jessica Francis Kane

A novel that imagines the cause of a real-life disaster in London, in which people were crushed and killed while trying to enter a Tube station for safety during the Blitz. (large print)

*Flight Behavior* by Barbara Kingsolver

The story of a young wife and mother living a quiet existence on a failing farm in Tennessee who experiences something she cannot explain. Her discovery opens up her narrow world and causes her to be caught up in the center of a conflict and in a fight for the truth. (audio; large print)

*The Leavers* by Lisa Ko

In this emotionally charged story of cross-cultural adoption and complicated lives, a woman is deported from America to China, leaving behind an adolescent son who never knew what happened to his mother. (audio; large print)

*The Dinner* by Herman Koch

Two couples meet for dinner at a trendy restaurant in Amsterdam to discuss a tragic incident involving their teenage children. A dark and controversial international bestseller of high suspense. (audio; large print)

*Interpreter of Maladies* by Jhumpa Lahiri

This award-winning short story collection presents universal characters attempting to understand the cataclysmic and benevolent events that occur in their lives. The stories' locations are in India and the U.S.; their themes are global. Characters struggle to express their feelings of alienation, pain, and joy to themselves and others. Lahiri won the Pulitzer Prize and the PEN Hemingway Award for this collection. A short and superb read! (audio; large print)

*Mystic River* by Dennis Lehane

Three men, who were childhood friends until a terrible event ruptured their lives, live on the south side of Boston where they grew up. When one man's daughter is murdered, his old friend, now a police detective, is assigned to the case and must investigate their other childhood friend. A gripping psychological thriller by an award-winning mystery author. (audio; large print)

*In the Lake of the Woods* by Tim O'Brien

When the worst secret from a politician's past is revealed, he and his wife escape to the woods to recover. A master magician who had managed to make his past vanish, he is suspected of murder when his wife disappears. (audio; large print)

*The Buddha in the Attic* by Julie Otsuka

Unforgettable choral-like narrative recounts the experiences of six Japanese "picture brides" who struggle to adjust to a new culture, raise families, and face the prospect of wartime internment. (audio; large print)

*The Nobodies Album* by Carolyn Parkhurst

When Octavia learns that her estranged son has been arrested for murder, she abandons the manuscript of her latest book to reconcile with him. Their story is interspersed with fragments of Octavia's books, with both their original and revised endings. (audio)

*Bel Canto* by Ann Patchett

This award-winning novel features an international cast of well-drawn characters and a riveting plot. When guerrillas take hostages at an embassy party in an unnamed South American country, the following months of captivity result in some surprising relationships. (audio, large print)

*True Grit* by Charles Portis

In this rip-roaring adventure story, a no-nonsense teenage girl hires a tough U.S. marshal to help avenge the death of her father. Even if you don't like Westerns, this novel's sparkling, wry humor and engaging dialogue just might win you over. (audio)

*Dreamers of the Day* by Mary Doria Russell

Following a family tragedy, Agnes Shanklin leaves behind her life as a spinster schoolteacher and begins an unforgettable journey. She travels to Egypt, with her newly adopted dog Rosie, and finds herself in the middle of the Cairo Peace Conference where she meets T. E. Lawrence and Winston Churchill. (audio; large print)

*Please Look After Mom* by Kyong-suk Sin

An old woman comes to Seoul to visit her children. At a busy train station she is separated from her husband and lost. While the family looks for their mother, they reflect on her life and their relationship to her. The novel represents the contrast between old and new in Korea and is the author's first book to be translated to English. (audio; large print)

*Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout

This Pulitzer Prize winning novel of interconnected stories follows the lives of folks in a small Maine town, including the rather blunt and opinionated school teacher of the title. Finely crafted and deeply emotional. (audio; large print)

*Into the Beautiful North* by Luis Alberto Urrea

Inspired by the film *The Magnificent Seven*, Nayeli and her three friends leave their tiny Mexican village to bring home seven men to protect their home. As Nayeli marches north, she finds far more than she'd been looking for. (audio)

## Nonfiction

*Quiet* by Susan Cain

Introverts like to listen, to read, and work on their own. In this book, Cain argues that it is the quiet ones that society undervalues the most, and she provides convincing examples of the significant contributions made by successful introverts. (audio; large print)

*The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien

The men of Alpha Company battle the enemy, miss the lives they left behind, and struggle with loneliness, rage and fear in a testament to the devastating legacy of the Vietnam War. This modern classic is a painful, lyrical, and intensely personal account of the war. (audio; large print)

*Shadow Divers* by Robert Kurson

The exciting true story of scuba divers' discovery, in 1991, of a sunken German submarine off the New Jersey coast, and the years they spent unraveling the unidentified U-boat's mysteries. (audio; large print)