



Gift Books 2018

Recommended by your library staff!

Fiction

***A Place for Us* by Fatima Farheen Mirza**

An American Muslim family is torn apart in the struggle between tradition and modernity. A compassionate tale of identity and belonging.

***There There* by Tommy Orange**

A kaleidoscopic look at Native American life in Oakland, California. An eye-opening and moving novel worth the challenge.

***Circe* by Madeline Miller**

Hear the Greek myths retold from the perspective of one of its denizens. A very new take from a very old voice; for those who like their fiction to be otherworldly.

***The Last Watchman of Old Cairo* by Michael David Lukas**

An American student with a Jewish mother and Muslim father explores his family's tangled roots in the history of Cairo's ancient synagogue.

***The Cabin at the End of the World* by Paul Tremblay**

A blinding tale of survival and sacrifice that matches the power of belief with man's potential for unbridled violence. Psychological horror that will keep you up at night.

***The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris**

An unlikely love story set amid the horrors of a Nazi death camp. Based on the real-life experiences of Holocaust survivor Ludwig (Lale) Sokolov.

***The Great Believers* by Rebecca Makkai**

A dazzling novel of friendship and redemption in the face of tragedy and loss set in 1980s Chicago and contemporary Paris. Shortlisted for the National Book Award and written by a Chicagoan.

***Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman**

Honeyman's endearing debut is part comic novel, part emotional thriller, and part love story. For those who enjoy off-beat novels and unique characters.

***The Lake on Fire* by Rosellen Brown**

Two young Jewish immigrants run away from home to make their way in the seething, harsh tumult of 19th-century Chicago. A beautifully written epic that effortlessly translates to today.

***Transcription* by Kate Atkinson**

A dramatic story of WWII espionage, betrayal, and loyalty. For those who like a little (or a lot) of suspense with their historical fiction.

***A Dog's Way Home* by W. Bruce Cameron**

A beautifully told, charming tale that explores the unbreakable bond between us and our pets. For the animal lovers in your life.





Nonfiction

***The Library Book* by Susan Orlean**

An engaging, casual history of librarians, libraries and a famous one that burned down. For bibliophiles and those who love to learn about lesser-known moments in history.

***Searching for Stars on an Island in Maine* by Alan Lightman**

One of our most reliable interpreters of science offers a slender book of ruminations that venture wide and deep. For those who enjoy wading into science and philosophy.

***I See Life Through Rosé-Colored Glasses: True Stories and Confessions* by Lisa Scottoline & Francesca Serritella**

The bestselling mother daughter duo share heartfelt and humorous moments from their lives. Witty and full of down-to-earth wisdom.

***The Art of the Wasted Day* by Patricia Hampl**

A spirited inquiry into the lost value of leisure and daydream. For those who long for a life without schedules and see the appeal in letting go.

***21 Lessons for the 21st Century* by Yuval Noah Harari**

A probing and visionary investigation into today's most urgent issues as we move into the uncharted territory of the future. Provocative and thoughtful.

***John Singer Sargent and Chicago's Gilded Age* by Annelise K. Madsen**

A beautiful art book to accompany the Art Institute's 2018 exhibition devoted to the American portraitist. Illuminates Chicago's art scene at the turn-of-the-century.

***Shade: A Tale of Two Presidents* by Pete Souza**

Presidential photographer turned political commentator Souza presents a series of visual juxtapositions that throw "shade" on the current administration.

Memoir/Biography

***Time Pieces: A Dublin Memoir* by John Banville**

The celebrated author turns inward with this enchanting memoir about his beloved hometown. A cultural, architectural, political tour told with wit and emotion.

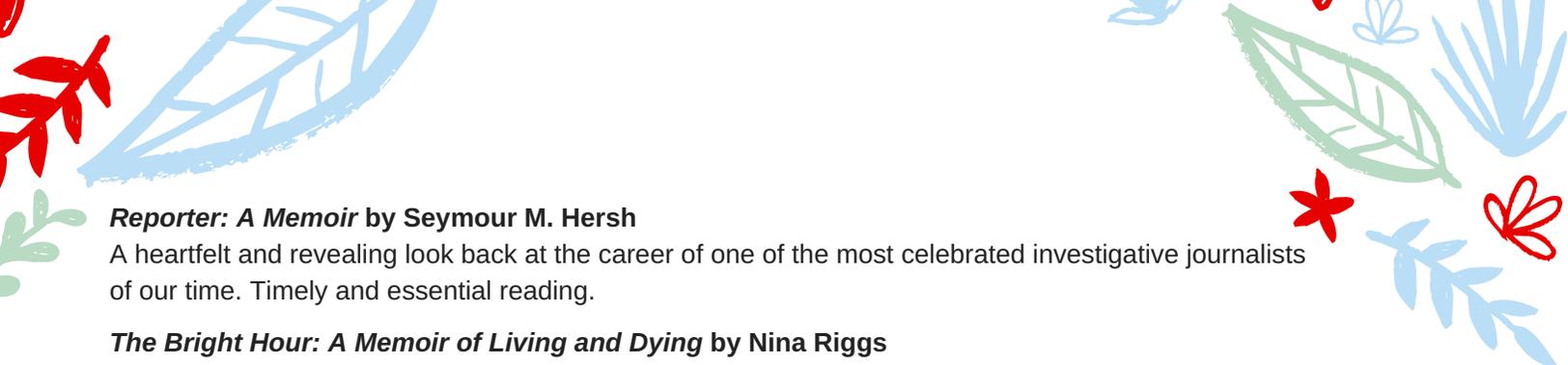
***Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover**

An unforgettable memoir about a young girl who, kept out of school, leaves her survivalist family and goes on to earn a PhD from Cambridge University. One of the year's top books.

***Okay Fine Whatever: The Year I Went from Being Afraid of Everything to Only Being Afraid of Most Things* by Courtenay Hameister**

A chronically anxious woman seeks to become a braver person by facing the experiences she's always avoided head-on. Frank, hilarious and inspirational.





Reporter: A Memoir by Seymour M. Hersh

A heartfelt and revealing look back at the career of one of the most celebrated investigative journalists of our time. Timely and essential reading.

***The Bright Hour: A Memoir of Living and Dying* by Nina Riggs**

When diagnosed with terminal breast cancer, Riggs, a poet, young mother and wife endeavors to live the most meaningful life she can with the time she has left. Tender and haunting.

***In Pieces* by Sally Field**

With honesty and humility, a Hollywood icon recounts her lonely childhood and early rise to fame. Lyrical and arresting; a standout in celebrity memoirs.

***This Will Only Hurt a Little* by Busy Philipps**

The comedic actress who is known for her hilarious Instagram stories pens a candid and intimate memoir. From sexism to motherhood, she shares her engrossing personal history.

***Famous Father Girl: A Memoir of Growing Up Bernstein* by Jamie Bernstein**

The oldest daughter of the revered composer writes a portrait of the larger-than-life cultural icon and his circle. Perfect for lovers of American culture and music.

***Becoming* by Michelle Obama**

The first African-American first lady reflects on the experiences that have shaped her. From Chicago's South Side to the White House, her story is truly inspiring.

***Call Me American: A Memoir* by Abdi Nor Iftin**

The incredible story of a boy raised in war-torn Somalia who manages to win the green card lottery after years of dreaming of America. Harrowing, unforgettable and important.

Cookbooks/Lifestyle

***Self-Care for the Real World* by Nadia Narain & Katia Narain Phillips**

The authors present small achievable steps they have learned, and how you can apply them to your own life, wherever you are. A practical guide to self-care for real people with busy lives.

***Pasta, Pane, Vino: Deep Travels Through Italy's Food Culture* by Matt Goulding**

Not a cookbook, not strictly a travel book, but one that combines the best of both. Goulding is a passionate food lover who takes you with him on his culinary adventures in Italy.

***The Little Book of Lagom: How to Balance Your Life the Swedish Way* by Jonny Jackson & Elias Larsen**

Lagom means "not too much and not too little, but just the right amount." Readers will learn how to balance their needs with those of the wider world. It's all about moderation, efficiency and fairness.

***Salt, Fat, Acid, Heat: Mastering the Elements of Good Cooking* by Samin Nosrat**

Now a popular Netflix series, the author's philosophy is this: Master the use of just four elements and anything you cook will be delicious.





***Israeli Soul: Easy, Essential, Delicious* by Michael Solomonov & Steven Cook**

To find the best of Israeli cuisine, the authors scoured bustling cities and sleepy towns on mountaintops. Simple and accessible for the home kitchen.

***Cook Like a Pro: Recipes and Tips for Home Cooks* by Ina Garten**

The self-taught chef shares all new recipes that have been tested so they are as simple and streamlined as possible. Home cooks will be encouraged to be more ambitious.

Teen

***Anger Is a Gift* by Mark Oshiro**

Rooted in the working-class neighborhoods of Oakland, California, this is a tale of youth of color, diverse in sexuality and gender, organizing to challenge state-sanctioned violence.

***Dry* by Neal & Jarrod Shusterman**

When a calamitous drought overtakes southern California, a group of teens must struggle to keep their lives and their humanity in this father-son collaboration.

***Muse of Nightmares (Strange the Dreamer)* by Laini Taylor**

The sequel to *Strange the Dreamer* that continues the epic fantasy set in a world of gods and nightmares. The series has garnered almost every award in the teen book world.

***The Cruel Prince (The Folk of the Air)* by Holly Black**

The first book in a stunning new series about a mortal girl who finds herself caught in a web of royal faerie intrigue.

Audiobooks

***The Music Shop* by Rachel Joyce**

Stocking only vinyl in his London music shop, Frank Adair has the ability to select the perfect song to ease each customer's spiritual crisis. A quirky and joyful piece of fiction.

***I'll Be Gone in the Dark: One Woman's Obsessive Search for the Golden State Killer* by Michelle McNamara**

The haunting true story of the elusive serial rapist turned murderer who terrorized California during the 70s and 80s, and of the gifted journalist who died tragically while investigating the case.

***My Year of Rest and Relaxation* by Ottessa Moshfegh**

A young woman attempts to duck the ills of the world by embarking on an extended hibernation with the help of a battery of medicines. Darkly comic and penetrating, it's unlike any other book.

