

Notable Books of 2015
Chosen by the Librarians of the Emmaus Public Library

General Fiction

- Beatlebone** by Kevin Barry. John Lennon escapes his life as a Beatle for a little peace and quiet.
- The Bone Tree** by Greg Iles. The 2nd in his *Natchez Burning* trilogy set in the Mississippi.
- Cuba Straits** by Randy Wayne White. Fidel Castro's letters and lots of dead guys equals a fun read.
- Fates and Furies** by Lauren Groff. A complex story which keeps readers guessing throughout the tale.
- Gold Fame Citrus** by Claire Watkins. A near-future dystopia when the southwest is out of water.
- Golden Age** by Jane Smiley. This is the final in her *American Trilogy* about one Iowa family.
- A Knight of Seven Kingdoms** by George R. R. Martin. *The Game of Thrones* author gets medieval.
- The Last Bus to Wisdom** by Ivan Doig. A young boy on a road trip; the late author's last book.
- The Little Paris Bookshop** by Nina George. A bookstore on a barge in the Seine—how romantic!
- The Love Song of Miss Queenie Hennessy** by Rachel Joyce. The sequel to Harold Fry's story.
- The Mare** by Mary Gaitskill. Upstate NY couple fosters a child from Brooklyn for the summer.
- Outline** by Rachel Cusk. A teacher on a semester abroad in Greece gains new perspective on her life.
- Purity** by Jonathan Franzen. A young woman works on a secretive WikiLeaks-like project.
- The Red Collar** by Jean-Christophe Rufin. A short book about a little dog in World War I.
- The Relic Master** by Christopher Buckley. A hilarious tale about a quest for the Holy Grail
- The Small Backs of Children** by Lidia Yuknavitch. The search for a girl in a wartime photograph.
- Speak** by Louisa Hall. A multi-voiced novel spanning different eras, from Dickens to Silicon Valley.
- The Story of the Lost Child** by Elena Ferrante. Conclusion of her acclaimed 4-part Neapolitan series.
- A Strangeness in My Mind** by Orhan Pamuk. A humble street merchant in the streets of Istanbul.
- Thirteen Ways of Looking** by Colum McCann. Short stories by a literary master.
- Two Years Eight Months and Twenty-eight Nights** by Salman Rushdie. Another inventive gem.
- Undermajordomo Minor** by Patrick deWitt. A remote village, its spooky castle and the ruler of it all.

Historical Fiction

- An Appetite for Violets** by Martine Bailey. The undercook of an English estate goes to Italy.
- Carrying Albert Home** by Homer Hickam. A fictionalized account of the NASA man's life.
- Circling the Sun** by Paula McLain. A novel about the pioneering aviator Beryl Markham.
- The Fatal Flame** by Lyndsay Faye. The final in a trilogy about New York City in the 19th c.
- A Fateful Lightning** by Jeff Shaara. The conclusion of the author's Civil War series.
- Girl Waits with Gun** by Amy Stewart. 1914 NJ and three sisters try to live independent lives.
- Go Set a Watchman** by Harper Lee. The much-discussed prequel to *To Kill a Mockingbird*.
- A God in Ruins** by Kate Atkinson. Focuses on Teddy, a character in her book *Life after Life*.
- The Gods of Tango** by Carolina de Robertis. 1913 and a woman on a quest in Buenos Aires.
- Inspector of the Dead** by David Morrell. A convoluted plot to kill Queen Victoria.
- Lamentation** by C.J. Sansom. A master at royal intrigue, Sansom looks at Henry VIII's court.
- The Last Midwife** by Sandra Dallas. A midwife in 1880s Colorado knows and keeps many secrets.
- Leaving Berlin** by Joseph Kanon. Postwar Berlin; powerful historical fiction.
- The Marriage of Opposites** by Alice Hoffman. The painter Camille Pizarro's mother's story.
- Master of the Prado** by Javier Sierra. European history seen in the Prado; an illustrated novel.
- Mr. Mac and Me** by Esther Freud. A touching coming-of-age story about a boy in 1914 Britain.
- The Nightingale** by Kristin Hannah. A compelling tale of two sisters in WWII France.
- The Secret Chord** by Geraldine Brooks. This accomplished author writes of King David.
- The Strangler Vine**. India, 1837. An old-fashioned adventure tale about a missing man.
- Sweet Caress** by William Boyd. A powerful novel about a female photographer in the 1930s.
- The Taming of the Queen** by Philippa Gregory. Kathryn Parr---Henry VIII's last wife.
- The Truth According to Us** by Annie Barrow. A writer in Depression-era West Virginia.
- Twain and Stanley Enter Paradise** by Oscar Hijuelos. A delightful tale of Mark Twain and friend.
- The White Ghost** by James Benn. One of Eisenhower's aides encounters JFK in the Pacific.

Mysteries and Thrillers

The Cartel by Don Winslow. Power, corruption and revenge in the Mexican drug wars.

The Dead Student by John Katzenbach. A grad student investigates his psychiatrist uncle's death.

Did You Ever Have a Family? by Bill Clegg. A gripping thriller whose title says a lot.

The Fifth Heart by Dan Simmons. Sherlock Holmes and Henry James solve mysteries together.

Finders Keepers by Stephen King. A gripping follow-up to King's *Mr. Mercedes*.

The Girl in the Spider's Web by David Lagercrantz. Latest in *The Girl With a Dragon Tattoo* series.

House of Thieves by Charles Belfoure. An architect and a crime boss team up to rob the rich.

Ivory by Tony Park. Nonstop action and adventure set among African ivory poachers and pirates.

Last Days in Shanghai by Casey Walker. A congressman goes missing in China and trouble ensues.

Mycroft Holmes by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. The basketball star-author writes an excellent mystery.

One Man's Flag by David Downing. The author of *Jack of Spies* writes another espionage tale.

Palace of Treason by Jason Matthews. The author is considered one of our best thriller writers.

Slade House by David Mitchell. There is nothing this author can't do, including write of vampires.

Biography

The Big Bad Book of Bill Murray by Robert Schnakenberg. A unique actor/comedian's life story.

Destiny and Power by Jon Meacham. George H. W. Bush's life in a masterful biography.

Elon Musk by Ashlee Vance. Musk invented PayPal, the Tesla car, and plans to go to Mars.

A Full Life by Jimmy Carter. The former president looks back in gratitude.

The Invention of Nature by Andrea Wulf. Alexander von Humboldt's vastly influential life story.

M Train by Patti Smith. The singer/songwriter continues her story that began with *Just Kids*.

The New Tsar by Steven Myers. The rise and reign of Vladimir Putin.

One Man Against the World by Timothy Weiner. The tragic life of Richard Nixon.

The Seven Good Years by Etgar Keret. Unimaginable circumstances define this writer's life.

The Wright Brothers by David McCullough. An eye-opening look at the beginnings of aviation.

Non-Fiction

A is for Arsenic by Kathryn Harkup. Here are all the poisons Agatha Christie used in her mysteries.

And Still I Rise by Henry Louis Gates. A stirring chronology of black America since ML King.

Becoming Nicole by Amy Nutt. What it's like to have and be a transgender twin in the family.

Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates. What a black man tells his son about America.

Dead Wake by Erik Larson. The story of the sinking of the Lusitania by a masterful writer.

Do No Harm by Henry Marsh. A top British surgeon tells what it's like to operate on a human brain.

Fields of Blood by Karen Armstrong. The historian of religious studies tackles violence and faith.

God'll Cut You Down by John Safran. Hilarious and bizarre true crime: a bad man is murdered.

H is for Hawk by Helen MacDonal. A memoir of grief and trying to train a very reluctant hawk.

Hissing Cousins by Marc Peyser. Eleanor Roosevelt didn't like her cousin Alice and vice versa.

ISIS by Jessica Stern. A good introduction to the terror group behind so much violence.

The Job by Steve Osborne. The true story of what it's like to be a New York City cop.

Lights Out by Ted Koppel. It's not if, it's when, a cyber attack will bring down the US power grid.

Living the Farm Sanctuary Life by Gene Baur. How to live in true harmony with nature.

Pacific by Simon Winchester. A superbly written book about our largest ocean; he also wrote *Atlantic*.

Pirate Hunters by Robert Kurson. The exciting search for a legendary pirate ship.

In Montmartre by Sue Roe. Picasso et al; she also wrote *The Private Lives of the Impressionists*.

Sisters in Law by Linda Hirshman. Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsberg's impact.

SPQR by Mary Beard. A new, comprehensive history of the Roman Empire.

The Teenage Brain by Frances Jensen. Teenage brain development explains much of their behavior.

10% Human by Alanna Collen. How microbes define our bodies and our ultimate health.

Thomas Jefferson and the Tripoli Pirates by Brian Kilmeade. A young nation faces great danger.