



Top of the Shelf

By Library Committee - January 2012

ADULT FICTION

11/22/63 by Stephen King

11/22/63 is the date JFK was assassinated. If you had the opportunity to go back and stop it, would you? This is the premise of Stephen King's engrossing new novel. As in any time traveller scenario, one must suspend belief for a moment in order to have the protagonist, Jake Epping, leave the year 2011 and arrive in 1958. Jake can visit the past for as long as he likes-years even-but when he returns to the present it's always exactly two minutes later. Every subsequent visit is a "reset." You can change the past (and consequently the present), but as Jake learns, "the past is obdurate." It resists.

First Jake has to try to determine if Oswald did, indeed act alone. King's writing about life in American at the end of the 50's is very descriptive and readers can understand Jake's affinity with this simpler time period. Jake slowly shakes off his 2000-era neurosis and enjoys his time spent in the past, but he can't stop wondering about any "butterfly effects" he may inadvertently make with his actions. 11/22/63 was written by a more mature King and it shows. The characters are more developed and the pace is slower, just like the past.

Train Dreams by Denis Johnson

Train Dreams is a compelling and haunting novella. Originally published in The Paris Review in 2002 and then in the O'Henry prize recipient anthology in 2003, the novella has been issued as a standalone hardcover this year. Train Dreams is a portrait of early 20th-century America as witnessed by Robert Grainier, a scrupulous, dignified man whose wife and infant daughter were consumed in a fire in their cabin while he was miles away working on the railroad or in the forest as a logger. This novella can - and should - be read in one sitting, as it compellingly transports you into another place and time: logging communities in the Pacific Northwest during Prohibition and the Depression. Accolades for Train Dreams include New York Times Notable Book for 2011 and one of NPR's 10 Best Novels of 2011.

Turn of mind by Alice LaPlante

A stunning first novel, both literary and thriller, about a retired orthopaedic surgeon with dementia, Turn of Mind has already received worldwide attention. With unmatched patience and a pulsating intensity, Alice LaPlante brings us deep into a brilliant woman's deteriorating mind, where the impossibility of recognizing reality can be both a blessing and a curse.

As the book opens, Dr. Jennifer White's best friend, Amanda, who lived down the block, has been killed, and four fingers surgically removed from her hand. Dr. White is the prime suspect and she herself doesn't know whether she did it. Told in White's own voice, fractured and eloquent, a picture emerges of the surprisingly intimate, complex alliance between these life-long friends—two proud, forceful women who were at times each other's most formidable adversaries. As the investigation into the murder deepens and White's relationships with her live-in caretaker and two grown children intensify, a chilling question lingers: is White's shattered memory preventing her from revealing the truth or helping her to hide it?

A startling portrait of a disintegrating mind clinging to bits of reality through anger, frustration, shame, and unspeakable loss, Turn of Mind is a remarkable debut that examines the deception and frailty of memory and how it defines our very existence.

ADULT NON-FICTION

Brilliant Career Coach: How to find and follow your dream career / Rowan Sophie


To have a fulfilling and successful work life, this coach-in-a-book will guide you through the process of finding your ideal career. It is packed with smart advice; clever exercises; insights from world-class careers experts; and stories from people, like you, who've already taken the journey

The First-Time Manager in Asia: Maximizing your success by blending East and West best practices / B.H. Tan

These are three key benefits from this book: Setting in place Five Foundation Stones that will ensure your success as a manager now and in the future; Acquiring a Versatile Managerial Toolkit that blends the best from the East and West so that you can lead more effectively in the 21st century; and Enhancing your influence through the Power of Engagement.

Breakfast with Socrates: An Extraordinary (Philosophical) Journey Through Your Ordinary Day / Robert Rowland Smith

Former Oxford Philosophy Fellow Robert Rowland Smith whisks you through an ordinary day with history's most extraordinary thinkers, explaining what they might have to say about your routine. From waking up in the morning through travelling to work, shopping, eating, going to a party, falling asleep, and dreaming, Smith connects our most mundane habits to the wider world of ideas.





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ADULT AUDIOS

THE HOUSE OF SILK / Anthony Horowitz

A new and authorized Sherlock Holmes adventure! Anthony Horowitz, best-selling author and Holmes fan, was given access to the Sir Conan Doyle estate's archives to create a new case for Holmes and his Baker Street Irregulars. A fine art dealer approaches Holmes with concerns about a man in a 'flat hat' who seems to have followed him from the US. Soon a series of crimes unfold – including murder. As Holmes and Watson investigate, they learn about the House of Silk, a mysterious entity which seems to connect the most powerful elements of both good and evil. Horowitz has created recognizable, intriguing, and polished characters in a mystery that closely follows the style of the best of Sherlock Holmes.

ENTRELEADERSHIP / Dave Ramsey

In the latest book by the popular business author and talk show host, *EntreLeadership* is defined as the practical blend of entrepreneurial passion and servant-like leadership. This business guide is designed for managers, entrepreneurs as well as those aspiring to a leadership role. Ramsey gives practical advice on how to inspire and unify teams in meaningful ways – beyond the typical (and frequently tired out) pep talk. In a straightforward fashion, Ramsey also shares from his broader experiences of failures and successes. Learn how to set goals, execute, take ownership and inspire the same in colleagues and employees.

THE MARRIAGE PLOT / Jeffrey Eugenides

It's the early 1980's and Madeleine Hanna, English major is working on her senior thesis at Brown University. While she's struggling to explain the current preference for the exotic, historical prose of the Marquis de Sade over the suburban, "daily life" writings of Cheever and Updike, her own real life are unfolding. The US economy is in a deep recession and job prospects are grim for college graduates. Madeleine has two very different young men vying for her attentions. The relative 'safety' of college life looks like it's coming to an end. This trio enters the 'real world' and comes face to face with life's big questions. This story has been acclaimed for its witty, charming and poignant storytelling.

JUNIOR AUDIOS

WILDWOOD / Colin Meloy [Age 9+]

Wildwood is a fantasy world (also known as the terrifying Impassable Wilderness or IW) set in a real city, Portland, Oregon. People don't go to the IW – or maybe - they don't return to talk about it...

Prue McKeel's life changes the day her baby brother is kidnapped and taken deep into the IW. She and her friend, Curtis, decide they have no choice but to head into this giant, green, scary wilderness in search of her brother Mac. They find an amazing, intricate world full of animal and human inhabitants, some magical, some dangerous and some both. This classic fantasy storyline has a fresh, modern and truly Oregonian edge – it's written by Colin Meloy, the lead singer of The Decemberists.

INHERITANCE (the Fourth Book of the Inheritance Cycle) / Christopher Paolini - Age 12+

At last, the astonishing conclusion to the Inheritance Cycle. In the first book in the series, Eragon, a young farm boy discovered a strange blue stone which he quickly learned was a dragon's egg. Eragon and his dragon, Saphira, drew the attention of the evil King Galbatorix, but they managed to escape. Time has passed, filled with training and battles, victory and loss, building hope for the future. It is clear that they must now face Galbatorix and defeat him. This fourth volume has new characters, including dragons and 'monumental secrets', all vital to this final battle. The future of Alagaesia rests on their victory...

A DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: THE UGLY TRUTH / Jeff Kinney - Age 8+

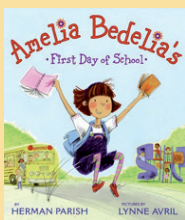
Greg Heffley has been in a hurry to grow up – but now that he is getting older, 'grown up' may not be such a good deal! He's discovering that when you're no longer a cute little kid, and not yet a grown-up, it's a tricky limbo. There are new things happening – but it's clear that they're not all good news either... pimples, wild classmates (and brothers), a scary new dentist... He's also discovering that replacing a best friend like Rowley is not so easy, even if he deserves replacing!



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CHILDREN

Amelia Bedelia's First Day at School by Herman Parish

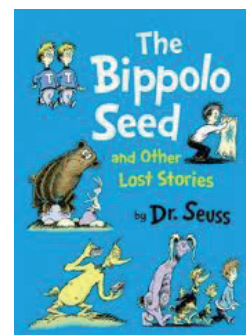


Amelia Bedelia is sure she will love everything about the first day of school. New friends, a new teacher, her own desk, music, books, gym, art, recess and lunch. Amelia Bedelia can't wait.

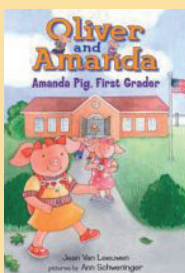
What could be better than going to school? Amelia Bedelia has been making readers laugh since 1963, when the first Amelia Bedelia book was published. Now, for the first time, you can meet the young Amelia Bedelia.

The Bippolo Seed and Other Lost Stories by Dr. Seuss

Seuss scholar/collector Charles D. Cohen has hunted down seven rarely seen stories by Dr. Seuss. Originally published in magazines between 1948 and 1959, they include "The Bear, the Rabbit, and the Zinniga-Zanniga" (about a rabbit who is saved from a bear with a single eyelash!); "Gustav the Goldfish" (an early, rhymed version of the beginner book A Fish Out of Water); "Tadd and Todd" (a tale passed down via photocopy to generations of twins); "Steak for Supper" (about fantastic creatures who follow a boy home in anticipation of a steak dinner); "The Bippolo Seed" (in which a scheming feline leads an innocent duck to make a bad decision); "The Strange Shirt Spot" (the inspiration for the bathtub-ring scene in The Cat in the Hat Comes Back); and "The Great Henry McBride" (about a boy whose far-flung career fantasies are only bested by those of the real Dr. Seuss himself). This is a collection of stories that no Seuss fan will want to miss!



Oliver and Amanda: Amanda Pig, First Grader by Jean Van Leeuwen



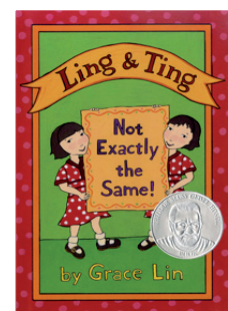
For Amanda Pig, being a first grader means lots of exciting things. No more nap time. Playing on the big playground. Working at real desks. And best of all, reading!

But something is wrong. When Amanda and her friends get to the playground, the big kids take their ball. And even worse, when Amanda tries to read her book, she recognizes the letter but not the words. Is first grade going to be harder than Amanda thought? Not with help from her teacher, the principal, and her best friend Lollipop. In four friendly and cheerful chapters, Amanda and Lollipop discover how fun it is to be first graders.

Ling and Ting: Not Exactly the Same by Grace Lin

Ling and Ting are twins. They like to stick together. They get haircuts and they make dumplings. They do magic tricks and they read books. They stick together and look alike. But they are not exactly the same.

Grace Lin's six short chapters about Chinese-American twins, Ling and Ting, are the perfect length for beginning readers. Each story ends with an amusing punch line that will make readers laugh. The last chapter ties all the tales together, showing the fun and friendship that the girls share.



The Flint Heart by Katherine Paterson and John Paterson



An ambitious Stone Age man demands a talisman that will harden his heart, allowing him to take control of his tribe. Against his better judgment, the tribe's magic man creates the Flint Heart, but the cruelty of it causes the destruction of the tribe.

Thousands of years later, the talisman reemerges to corrupt a kindly farmer, an innocent fairy creature and a familial badger. Can Charles and his sister Unity, who have consulted with fairies such as the mysterious Zagabog, wisest creature in the universe, find a way to rescue humans, fairies and animals alike from the dark influence of the Flint Heart? This humorous, hearty and entertaining fairy tale is abridged from Eden Philpott's 1920 fantasy.