

Best of The Best 2013

Amy Falls Down, Jincy Willett Blocked writer/teacher Amy's career does a complete turnaround after a fall in her garden.

The Aviator's Wife, Melanie Benjamin Anne Morrow Lindbergh's courtship and marriage to Charles Lindbergh retold.

Bad Monkey, Carl Hiassen Suspended cop Andrew Yancy suspects that a boating accident was not the cause of a human arm washed up by a fishing boat and thinks solving the case could get him back to work.

Blood and Beauty, Sara Dunant Rodrigo Borgia buys and politics his way into becoming Pope, allowing him to secure power and prestige to his illegitimate family particularly using son Cesare and daughter Lucrezia.

The Boyfriend, Thomas Perry Hired by her parents when the police find no leads in the murder of a young woman, PI Jack Till uncovers a series of murders nationwide victimizing women in the escort world.

Bristol House, Beverly Swerling Architectural historian hopes to revive her career when she takes a job searching for long lost Judaica despite her growing unease about her employer compounded by a ghost in her flat.

Cuckoo's calling, Robert Galbraith PI Cormoran Shrike takes on an investigation into the apparent suicide of a supermodel, mostly because he needs the money.

The Daughters of Mars, Thomas Keneally Two Australian sisters join the war effort, enlisting as nurses in World War I.

The Engagements, J Courtney Sullivan A diamond ring links the story of four couples and the advertising woman who coined the phrase 'a diamond is forever.'

Farewell, Dorothy Parker. Ellen Meisner Violet Epps is known for her tough movie reviews but in her private life is a wimp. So when the ghost of Dorothy Parker invades her life, Violet gets some life lessons on taking control.

Fin and Lady, Catherine Schine When eleven year old Fin is orphaned, he is taken in by his flamboyant sister uprooting him from a small Connecticut farm to join Lady in 1960's New York City.

The Good Lord Bird, James McBride When John Brown shoots his master and his father is killed, Brown takes Henry, a young slave, to join his band of abolitionists. Brown believes Henry is Henrietta, because of the smock he was wearing and Henry, plays along, as Brown's group travels across the country to end slavery.

Heart of Palm, Laura Lee Smith The Bravo family faces a momentous decision: selling their family home and property in a million dollar deal, upsetting each family member's world.

The House Girl, Tara Conklin Lina Sparrow, a law firm associate, is assigned to find a slave descendent with a compelling story for a case for slave reparations. She learns of Josephine Bell, house slave, who may be the actual artist of paintings attributed to her mistress.

How the Light Gets In, Louise Perry Stunning climax to the story arc of the Inspector Gamache series as he investigates the murder of Constance Ouellette, the last sister of famous quintuplets.

The Interestings, Meg Wolitzer A group of teenagers' friendships formed at a summer art camp in the 1970s is chronicled through their lives.

Joyland, Stephen King Devin Jones recalls the summer he spent at Joyland, a rundown amusement park on the North Carolina Coast where he develops a friendship with a dying boy and his mother, and attempts to unravel the mystery of a girl murdered in the house of horrors.

The Last Runaway, Tracy Chevalier Quaker Honor Bright accompanies her sister Grace to America where Grace is engaged. Grace dies en route, and Honor continues to Onio to Grace's fiancé, hoping to become a part of his Quaker community though she finds that anti-slavery belief do not always translate into action.

Life after Life, Jill McCorkle The lives of the elderly residents of Pine Haven Retirement Estates are told through the residents, staff and visitors to the facility.

Maya's Notebook, Isabel Allende Sent to the island of Chiloe, off the coast of Chile for her protection, Maya recounts her life falling into drugs and prostitution

after the death of her grandfather, her escape, and life on the remote Chilean island.

The Ocean at the End of the Lane, Neil Gaiman With an hour to kill after delivering a eulogy, the narrator finds himself drawn to a farmhouse and pond, recalling a memory of his seven year old self and the strange events that almost killed him.

The Painted Girls, Cathy Marie Buchanan Following the death of their father, their mother's alcoholism leads the three van Goethem sisters to earn a living through the Paris opera, leading the middle sister Marie to become Degas' model for 'the Little Dancer.'

Paris, Edward Rutherford A rich historical telling of Paris over eight centuries weaving historical figures with fictional actors in the saga of the city.

The Rosie Project, Graeme Simsion Genetics professor Don Tillman decides to find a wife (with a 16 page double sided questionnaire) but finds his life disrupted by Rosie, a student looking for help finding her biological father.

Seven for a Secret, Lyndsay Faye Police detective Timothy Wilde attempts to protect Lucy Adams who has lost her family to slave catchers who capture free people of color as 'runaways' and return them to the south putting him at odds with the political power players of 1846 New York City.

Sisterland, Curtis Sittenfeld Identical twins Violet and Kate share psychic powers that Kate works hard to hide while Violet exploits as a psychic. When Violet publically announces an impending life-threatening earthquake both lives are disrupted.

Someday, Someday Maybe, Lauren Graham Aspiring actress Franny Banks is trying for her big break in 1990s New York.

A Spear of Summer Grass, Deanna Raybourne Socialite Delilah Drummond is involved in one scandal too many and finds herself off to British Kenya and her former stepfather's estate.

A Tale for the Time Being, Ruth Ozeki A Hello Kitty lunchbox washes up on the shore of a remote British Columbia island containing a diary of a teenage Japanese girl writing her life story before committing suicide. Ruth, author finder of the lunch box is pulled into the girl's story.

Treasure Hunt, Andreas Camillieri A killer matches wits with Inspector Salvo Montalbano in a bizarre 'treasure hunt'.

Watching the dark, Peter Robinson Alan Banks' investigation into the murder of a police officer at a nursing facility becomes linked to the disappearance of a Englishwoman in Amsterdam.

We are All Completely Beside Ourselves, Karen Joy Fowler College student Rosemary recounts the devastating loss of her 'sister' Fern.

Z: a novel of Zelda Fitzgerald, Therese Anne Fowler The rise and fall of the poster children of the Jazz Age: Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald.

(Also: Call me Zelda, Erica Robuck Zelda's story and a view of her famous marriage seen through the eyes of her nurse.)