

Best of the Best

Fiction 2014

Lost Lake, Sara Addison Allen Widowed Kate takes her daughter to 'Lost Lake' an aging resort where she spent her last memorable summer with her great aunt.

Ripper, Isabel Allende Teenage Amanda uses the online mystery game *Ripper* to unmask a serial killer with the assistance of players around the world including her grandfather.

The Paris Architect, Charles Belfoure Paris under German occupation is not the best place to begin a career as an architect. Persuaded by a wealthy businessman to create a hiding place for a Jew, Lucien initially responds not from compassion but from ambition-he gets a commission to create a German armament factory. Though dangerous, Lucien likes the money and the challenge to outwit the Germans but soon begins to evaluate his life and priorities.

2 AM at the Cat's Pajamas, Marie-Helene Bertino Mourning for her dead mother and caring for her grief stricken father, 9 year old Madeleine is a smart mouthed rebellious child with an awesome ability as a jazz singer. Following a horrible day at school the day before Christmas eve, her ambitions intersect with other lives to make her way to the Cat's Pajamas, a local jazz club.

Ice Shear, M.P. Cooley Widowed FBI agent June Lyons returns to her small hometown police force to raise her daughter and live with her father. Her discovery of a body frozen in the river, opens her investigation beyond murder into drug trafficking, politics and a violent motorcycle gang.

All the light we cannot see, Anthony Doerr The lives of a blind French girl and a young German soldier intersect in Saint Malo as World War II comes to an end.

What is visible, Kimberly Elkins As a young child, Laura Bridgman lost her sight, hearing, sense of taste and smell from illness and is taken from her home and family by Dr. Samuel Howe who runs a school for the deaf and blind in Boston. Laura learns to communicate and is used to attract hundreds of visitors (and potential donors) to the school though virtually abandoned by her family.

And the Dark Sacred Night, Julia Glass Unemployed Art History Professor Kit Noonan has hit a wall in his job pursuit and is persuaded by his wife that finding the truth about his unknown father may help him move on in his life.

Hild, Nicola Griffith In seventh century Britain, young Hild establishes herself as the king's seer at court, a dangerous role in a time of warring kingdoms and the rise of Christianity.

Elizabeth is Missing, Emma Healey Maud, an elderly woman slipping into dementia is worried that her friend Elizabeth has disappeared much like the disappearance of her sister years before.

A Burnable Book, Bruce Holsinger At the request of Geoffrey Chaucer, poet John Gower pursues a missing manuscript reported to prophesy the death of newly crowned King Richard II.

The Invention of Wings, Sue Monk Kidd The story of two women trapped by slavery: abolitionist Sarah Grimke and her slave Handful.

Euphoria, Lily King Based loosely on the life of Margaret Mead, a tale of famed anthropologist Nell Stone and her less successful husband Fen and their involvement with Andrew Bankson helping them to find a new tribe to study.

After I'm Gone, Laura Lippman When sleazy businessman Felix Brower disappears before going to prison, the comfortable world of his wife Bambi and his daughters begins to fray. When his mistress disappears ten years later, it is assumed that she is joining Felix, a theory disproved when her remains are found. Retired Baltimore detective Sandy Sanchez takes on the investigation.

Dollbaby, Laura Lane McNeal After her father's death, Ibbey Bell's mother dumps her at the home of her eccentric Southern grandmother.

The Hundred Year House, Rebecca Makkai Telling the story of the Devohr family and Laurelfeld Arts Colony step by step into the past.

Station Eleven, Emily St. John Mandel Twenty years ago modern civilization was wiped out by a virulent disease and the survivors now live in small scattered settlements. Kirsten is an actress with the Traveling Symphony, itinerant performers of Shakespeare and music. By helping a girl escape from a settlement ruled by a self-styled Prophet the travelers incur a dangerous enemy.

The Arsonist, Sue Miller Frankie Rowley, a former aid worker in Africa, returns to her parents' retirement home in a small New Hampshire town. Hoping to figure out her future in the town where she spent summers with her family, Frankie's life becomes complicated by a series of arson fires in the town, her father's increasingly erratic behavior, and her romance with a newspaper man.

The Bone Clocks, David Mitchell A secret war rages between the evil soul decanters and the good Horologists forming a key level of this intricate novel. Spanning more than 50 years and told in interconnected vignettes all featuring Holly Sykes, Mitchell creates a spellbinding tale.

The Serpent of Venice, Christopher Moore A mashup of **Othello**, **The Merchant of Venice**, and **The Cask of Amontillado**, as Pocket, the Fool, escapes death to enact his revenge.

One Plus One, Jojo Moyes Jess struggles to make ends meet as a housecleaner after her husband leaves her and her two children. When her math whiz daughter is selected to

participate in a competition that could win her a scholarship to an elite school, Jess grabs at the opportunity. Reluctantly she accepts the offer of a near stranger to help the family to get to Scotland.

Yellow Eyes of Crocodiles, Katherine Pancol Middle aged Josephine struggles to support herself and her two daughters after she throws her cheating husband out. To augment her researcher's salary, she agrees to ghost write an historical novel to be published under her sister's name.

The Traitor's Wife, Allison Pataki Did Benedict Arnold's wife lead him to betray his country? Treason recounted through the eyes of the Arnolds' maid, Clara.

Delicious!, Ruth Reichl Billie Breslin's dream job as an editorial assistant at Delicious! comes to a crashing end when corporate owners close the magazine down. Billie is kept on as sole employee fielding calls from subscribers looking for the magazine's recipe money back guarantee. Alone in the building, Billie finds a secret file room and a trove of letters from a young girl to James Beard.

China Dolls, Lisa See Grace, Helen, and Ruby's friendship begins on the day they audition at the Forbidden City nightclub in San Francisco. Each has her own secrets which undermine their friendship through the war years and after.

A star for Mrs. Blake, April Smith In the 1930s, the US government offers Gold Star mothers a trip to France to visit their sons' graves. Cora Blake from a small town in Maine holds together their group of diverse mothers making the trip as she learns about her son's life at war.

Astonish Me, Maggie Shipstead Joan, a ballerina with the corps de ballet, realizes she lacks the talent to achieve stardom in the ballet though her relationship with a renowned choreographer who she helped to asylum in the US has helped her to remain employed. Discovering that she is pregnant, she reunites with her high school boyfriend to raise her son but her connection with the world of dance remains.

The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry, Gabrielle Zevin A.J. Fikry has lost his wife and his most prized possession but remakes his life when a toddler is abandoned in his bookstore.

Notable Series Entries:

The Dead in their Vaulted Arches, Alan Bradley (Flavia De Luce)

The Burning Room, Michael Connelly (Harry Bosch)

The Silkworm, Robert Galbraith (Cormorant Strike)

The King's Curse, Philippa Gregory (Cousin's War)

The Long Way Home, Louise Penny (Inspector Armand Gamache)