

BEST OF THE BEST 2018

Fiction

Atkinson, Kate **Transcription** Ten years after the end of World War II, Juliet Armstrong is confronted by people who figured in her war experience as a secretary turned spy.

Backman, Fredrik **Us Against You** The people of Beartown still recovering from the events of the previous season are hit with another blow when it is learned that their local hockey team will be disbanded and with former players now playing for their rival, a new team develops.

Barker, Pat **The Silence of the Girls** Briseis, queen of a kingdom near Troy, is captured by Achilles becoming his concubine and the source of a rift between Achilles and Agamemnon when he demands the girl as his own.

Cannon, Joanna **Three Things About Elsie** 84 year old Florence, residing in assisted living for the elderly, falls in her apartment. Awaiting rescue, she mulls the appearance of an old enemy she thought dead, and her reliance on her old friend Elsie.

Dray, Stephanie and Laura Kamoie **My Dear Hamilton: A Novel of Eliza Schuyler Hamilton** Eliza's story.

Franqui, Leah **America for Beginners** Recently widowed Pival Sengupta books a trip to America through an agency specializing in trips for Indians. But the custom tour is a cover for her to learn the truth about her son.

Fredericks, Mariah **A Death of No Importance** Jane Prescott is a lady's maid in a well-to-do New York household, giving her the perfect invisibility to solve the murder of a high society playboy.

French, Tana **The Witch Elm** Toby considers himself a lucky man. When he is brutally attacked in a home invasion, his injuries are devastating, and, encouraged by his cousin brings him back to his family home to recover and assist his dying uncle. The discovery of a skull in a tree in the garden challenge Toby's memory and his family relationships.

Gortner, C.W. **The Romanov Empress** Danish princess Minnie weds Alexander II, tsar of Russia to become Empress Maria of Russia. Avidly following her mother's advice to learn the ways of the Russians and the Romanovs, she becomes a force behind the throne.. Unfortunately, her influence over her son Nicholas is weaker, and despite her efforts she must watch the fall of the Romanovs.

Hannah, Kristen **The Great Alone** Former POW Ernt Allbright moves his wife and daughter Leni, to live off the grid in Alaska.

Harper, Jane **Force of Nature** Five women reluctantly undertake a corporate retreat hike, but only four emerge at the hike's end telling of fear and violence on the trail.

Horowitz, Anthony **The Word Is Murder** A woman visits a funeral parlor to preplan her funeral and is found strangled in her home 6 hours later. Ex-cop Daniel Hawthorne plans to investigate but wants to hire author Anthony Horowitz to document his life, throwing Horowitz into the middle of the murder case.

Jacobs, Nova **The Last Equation of Isaac Servery** After the apparent suicide of her mathematician grandfather, Hazel receives a letter from him asking her to track down an important equation.

Jones, Tayari An American Marriage Celestial and Roy begin married life with a bright future until Roy is accused and convicted of rape.

Kingsolver, Barbara Unsheltered Willa Knox, her husband Iano, daughter, and ailing father-in-law find themselves living in an inherited dilapidated house after the magazine she writes for folds, her tenured husband's college fails, and her daughter-in-law commits suicide leaving Willa with her son's infant son. In 19th century Virginia, teacher Thatcher Greenwood is also coping with a house he can't afford to repair and a wife and mother-in-law who aspire to a higher social status at the same time that he finds himself embroiled in a controversy with his decision to teach Darwinism to his students.

Lippman, Laura Sunburn Though warned of some of the secrets of her past, Adam falls hard for Polly, working as a waitress until she can head west. But the lies and secrets build over the hot summer, and then someone dies.

Luna, Louisa Two Girls Down Bounty hunter Alice Vega is hired by the distraught family of two young sisters who disappear from a strip mall parking lot. Alice joins forces with ex-cop Max Caplan to find the girls.

Makkai, Rebecca The Great Believers Using two storylines set thirty years apart, this is a compelling story of love and friendship. In 1985, Yale Tishman's career seems to be flourishing as the AIDS epidemic affects more and more of his friends. He is supported by the young sister of a deceased friend, Fiona. In 2015, Fiona is in Paris, searching for her estranged daughter, staying with a friend who has documented the Chicago crisis in photographs

Massey, Sujata The Widows of Malabar Hill Peveen Mistry has joined her father's law firm, groundbreaking for an Indian woman. Why have the 3 widows of Omar Faret decided to donate their bequests to a charity?

Miller, Madeline Circe The daughter of Helios, Circe isn't as beautiful or powerful as others in her family, but she does discover her own powers of witchcraft. Exiled by her father, her island existence is challenged by visits from men and gods alike, leading her to choose whether her life will be with gods or mortals.

Novik, Naomi Spinning Silver Miryem is the daughter of a moneylender who is unable to collect what is owed him, leaving the family in poverty. Miryem has the talents her father lacks and rescues the family business, gaining a reputation of being able to turn silver into gold. But her reputation attracts the interest of the king of the dangerous cold creatures who rule the mysterious neighboring kingdom.

Oliveira, Robin Winter Sisters A fierce blizzard in Albany in 1879 cripples the city so it is days before Dr. Mary Sutter can search for the children of friends who perished in the storm. When the girls suddenly reappear, it is only the start of Sutter's efforts of see justice down.

Pearce, A.J. Dear Mrs. Bird Thinking she has landed a dream job in journalism, Emmy Lake finds that her job is typing letters to the formidable Mrs Bird, advice columnist. But this is wartime, and when she reads letters from women facing problems Mrs Bird chooses to ignore, Emmy answers.

Shaffer, Andrew Hope Never Dies Joe Biden investigates the dead of his favorite train conductor with an assist from his friend Barack Obama.

Stewart, Amy Miss Kopp Just Won't Quit NJ Deputy Sheriff Constance Kopp has broken expectations of her abilities and won national notoriety but her role as a female deputy is not without its detractors.

When she investigates the institutionalization of a woman in an asylum, she learns a troubling secret that her sense of justice won't allow her to ignore, providing political fodder against her boss, Sheriff Heath, who is running for Congress.

Sun, Jomny **Everyone's a Alien When Ur a Alien Too** A lonely alien sent to observe Earth encounters creatures with many perspectives on life.

Tyler, Ann **Clock Dance** Widowed Willa Drake is enjoying a comfortable life in a new marriage when she receives a phone call telling her that her son's former girlfriend has been shot and needs her help caring for her nine year old daughter. Though the daughter is not her grandchild, Willa flies cross country to help out and becomes part of a different community.

Wolitzer, Meg **The Female Persuasion** A chance meeting with famous feminist Faith Frank changes the life of shy Greer Kadetsky.

NON-FICTION

Obama, Michelle **Becoming** The former First Lady tells her story as she lived it.

Orlean, Susan **The Library Book** Beginning with the devastating 1986 fire in the Los Angeles Public Library, Orlean traces the investigation of the fire and joins it to an fascinating story of libraries and librarians and their community.

Sedaris, David **Calypso** The latest collection of hilarious and touching stories of life, aging, and family.

Westover, Tara **Educated** As the child of survivalists in Idaho, Westover never saw a doctor, nor had any formal education. But with the help of one of her brothers, she began to teach herself, learning enough math and grammar to be admitted to Brigham Young University.

Carol Clingan, 12/6/2018