Wayland Public Library

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Gift Guide

Handpicked book recommendations for every reader on your list



For the Armchair Time Traveler

CONJURE WOMEN BY AFIA ATAKORA

An enslaved mother and daughter share a talent for healing, and perhaps other powers, on a Southern plantation in the years before and after the Civil War.

THE HENNA ARTIST BY ALKA JOSHI

Escaping from an abusive marriage, teenage Lakshmi becomes the most highly requested henna artist--and confidante--to the wealthy women of 1950s Jaipur.

DEACON KING KONG BY JAMES MCBRIDE

A cranky old church deacon shoots a local drug dealer, and the impact of the shooting is felt by a whole neighborhood in Brooklyn, 1969. An Oprah Book Club pick.

HAMNET: A NOVEL OF THE PLAGUE BY MAGGIE O'FARRELL

A luminous portrait of a marriage, a shattering evocation of grief and loss, and a hypnotic recreation of the story that inspired one of the greatest masterpieces of all time.

THE COLD MILLIONS BY JESS WALTER

Amidst cops and tramps, suffragists and socialists, madams and murderers, two brothers live by their wits as they negotiate the labor strife of turn-of-the-century America.

For the Hopeless Romantic

YOU HAD ME AT HOLA BY ALEXIS DARIA

The media spotlight on notorious telenovela star Jasmine threatens to destroy her backstage romance with fellow actor, Ashton.

WELL PLAYED BY JEN DELUCA

When Stacy finally meets her Internet flirtation at the Renaissance Faire, he's not at all who she expected.

THE HONEY-DON'T LIST BY CHRISTINA LAUREN

Hired to keep a feuding couple from wrecking their book tour, Carey starts to feel sparks with her fellow assistant, James.

WOULD I LIE TO THE DUKE BY EVA LEIGH

Posing as a highborn lady, budding entrepreneur Jessica catches the eye—and heart—of a duke. Can she keep her secret?

THE BOYFRIEND PROJECT BY FARRAH ROCHON

Just as Samiah decided to spend more time on herself, she meets delicious Daniel. But he might be just a little too good to be true.













For the Sci-Fi/Fantasy Fan

THE NEW WILDERNESS BY DIANE COOK

To escape the smog-choked city, a mother takes part in a back-to-the-wild experiment, testing her bonds not only with her daughter, but with civilization.

THE SPACE BETWEEN WORLDS BY MICAIAH JOHNSON

An outsider who can travel between worlds discovers a secret that threatens the very fabric of the multiverse. A tale of identity, privilege, and belonging.

THE CITY WE BECAME BY N. K. JEMISON

The avatars of New York's five boroughs have to band together to prevent its destruction when its birth into sentience is compromised.

SO YOU HAD TO BUILD A TIME MACHINE BY JASON OFFUTT

When a sci-fi skeptic and a sci-fi nerd start noticing odd changes in the world around them, they embark on a wild journey that could change the universe.

HENCH BY NATALIE ZINA WALSCHOTS

A supervillain's minion discovers that the greatest superpower--for good or ill-is a properly executed spreadsheet, with which she just might save the world.

For the Thrill Seeker

LONG BRIGHT RIVER BY LIZ MOORE

When her drug-addicted sister disappears, just as a mysterious string of murders rocks a Philly cop's district, she becomes obsessed with finding the killer--and her sister--before it's too late.

THE SUN DOWN MOTEL BY SIMONE ST. JAMES

A young woman takes a clerk job at the motel from which her aunt vanished 35 years earlier, where a haunting presence still lingers and a possible serial killer stalks the night desk.

THE DEVIL AND THE DARK WATER BY STUART TURTON

As Samuel Pipps, the world's greatest detective, is being transported to Amsterdam for execution, the voyage is beset by murder, a leper, and quite possibly a demon.

CONFESSIONS ON THE 7:45 BY LISA UNGER

Selena exchanges secrets with a beautiful stranger she meets on a train. She thinks no more of it until her life starts to fall apart in ways that lead back to that moment.

ONE BY ONE BY RUTH WARE

Cut off from the outside world by an avalanche, eight co-workers on a weekend retreat find themselves at increasing odds with each other, to the point of murder.



For the Lover of Literary Fiction

<mark>LEAVE THE WORLD BEHIND</mark> BY RUMAAN ALAM

Close bonds are reshaped and new ones forged when an older couple seeks refuge during a blackout in the vacation home they've rented to a younger family.

A CHILDREN'S BIBLE BY LYDIA MILLETT

THE WORLD BEHIND

RUMAAN ALAM

Twelve children fend for themselves after a terrible storm, in a prophetic, heartbreaking story of generational divide--and a haunting vision of what awaits us on the far side of Revelation.

THE GLASS KINGDOM

SHUGGIE BAIN

THE GLASS KINGDOM BY LAWRENCE OSBORNE

A young New Yorker on the lam in Bangkok gets taken up by the glamorous ex-pat set. But when political chaos erupts, her haven starts to feel more like a snare.

SHUGGIE BAIN BY DOUGLAS STUART

In their shabby projects flat in 1980s Glasgow, lonely young Shuggie struggles with his identity and tries to look after his beloved mother as she slips further into alcoholism.

INTERIOR CHINATOWN BY CHARLES YU

Hollywood bit player Willis Wu sees his life as a screenplay, in a playful yet heartfelt novel about escaping the roles we are forced to play. Winner of the National Book Award for Fiction.

For the Cosmopolitan

THE ENLIGHTENMENT OF THE GREENGAGE TREE BY SHOKOOFEH AZAR TRANSLATED BY ANONYMOUS

A richly imagined tale of a Tehran family fleeing the 1979 revolution for a small village, the power of art against oppression, and the unbreakable bonds between the living and the dead.

THE ADVENTURES OF CHINA IRON BY GABRIELA CABEZÓN CÁMARA TRANSLATED BY IONA MACINTYRE AND FIONA MACKINTOSH

After her no-good husband is conscripted into the Argentine army, China bolts for freedom in a wagon journey across the pampas with her Scottish pal, Liz. A wild, joyful, and subversive critique of national myths.

TYLL BY DANIEL KEHLMANN

TRANSLATED BY ROSS BENJAMIN

In his travels across a Europe devastated by the Thirty Years' War, the trickster and performer Tyll Ulenspiegel becomes a legend, in an enchanting and picturesque saga of magical realism and adventure.

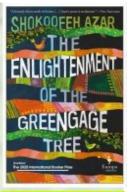
TOKYO UENO STATION BY YU MIRI

TRANSLATED BY MORGAN GILES

Kazu's ghost recalls his life in Tokyo as laborer and homeless man in the park he helped to build. A story of loss that pulses with empathy and the need to connect. Winner of the National Book Award.

THE DISCOMFORT OF EVENING BY MARIEKE LUCAS RIJNVELD TRANSLATED BY MICHELE HUTCHISON

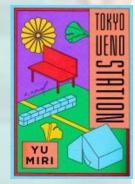
When a tragedy ruptures her devout farming family, a young girl retreats into increasingly disturbing fantasies, unlocking a darkness that threatens to engulf them all. Winner of the Man International Booker Prize.



Gabriela Cabezón Cámara The Adventures of China Iron











For the Deep Thinker

SURVIVING AUTOCRACY BY MASHA GESSEN

An incisive analysis of the destruction the Trump administration has waged on our institutions, the cultural norms we hoped would save us, and our very sense of identity.

THE LANGUAGE OF LIBERTY: A CITIZEN'S VOCABULARY BY EDWIN C. HAGENSTEIN

The entries in this lexicon of political terms are not just definitions, but thought-provoking explorations of each term's meaning in the broader context of American life and history.

THE VIRUS IN THE AGE OF MADNESS BY BERNARD-HENRY LEVY

Renowned philosopher Lévy takes a bird's-eye view of the most consequential historical event of our time and proposes a way to defend human society from threats to our collective future.

HOW TO MAKE A SLAVE AND OTHER ESSAYS BY JERALD WALKER

These brief but brilliant pieces cover a wide range of topics, balancing on the knife edge between fury and farce, in a bracing examination of what it means to be a Black man in America today.

CASTE: THE ORIGINS OF OUR DISCONTENT BY ISABEL WILKERSON

A beautifully written, original, and revealing exploration of how America has been shaped by a hidden, rigid hierarchy of human rankings throughout its history.

For the Foodie

MAGNOLIA TABLE, VOLUME 2: A COLLECTION OF RECIPES FOR GATHERING BY JOANNA GAINES

Inspired by seeing the family recipes from her earlier, bestselling book gracing other people's tables, Gaines has developed new recipes for her family, and yours, to gather around.

MODERN COMFORT FOOD: A BAREFOOT CONTESSA COOKBOOK BY INA GARTEN A collection of eighty-five all-new recipes by the James Beard Award-winning host of the Emmy Award-winning Food Network series, featuring comforting twists on childhood favorites.

100 COOKIES BY SARAH KIEFFER

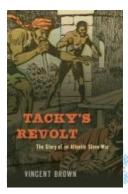
The title tells the story. Classic cookies, novel treats, brownies, bars, and more, from the inventor of the viral "bang the pan" technique.

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Magnolia Table

VEGETABLE KINGDOM: THE ABUNDANT WORLD OF PLANT-BASED RECIPES BY BRYANT TERRY More than 100 beautifully simple recipes that teach you the basics of a great vegan meal centered on real food, not powders or meat substitutes.

DISHOOM: FROM BOMBAY WITH LOVE BY SHAMIL AND KAVI THAKRAR, AND NAVED NASIR The renowned restaurant shares the secrets to their much sought-after comfort food. Full of enchanting photographs and stories to transport you to the most charming corners of Bombay.

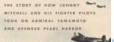












JAPANESE WOMAN AND HER WORLD

STRANGER

SHOGUN'S CITY

AMY STANLEY



For the History Buff

TACKY'S REVOLT: THE STORY OF AN ATLANTIC SLAVE WAR BY VINCENT BROWN

Tacky's revolt in Jamaica was the largest slave uprising in the 18th-century British Atlantic, with reverberations across an interconnected world.

THE VAPORS BY DAVID HILL

Hill brings to uproarious life a southern family, the New York mob, and the rise and fall of Hot Springs, America's forgotten capital of vice.

IMPERFECT UNION BY STEVE INSKEEP

The saga of Jessie and John Frémont, as they mapped the West, invented celebrity, and helped cause the Civil War.

DEAD RECKONING BY DICK LEHR

The subtitle says it all: "The story of how Johnny Mitchell and his fighter pilots took on Admiral Yamamoto and avenged Pearl Harbor."

STRANGER IN THE SHOGUN'S CITY: A JAPANESE WOMAN AND HER WORLD BY AMY STANLEY

A vivid look at the life of an unconventional woman during the first half of the 19th century, and a great city on the brink of a momentous encounter.

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For the Curious-Minded

WEST SIDE STORY: THE JETS, THE SHARKS, AND THE MAKING OF A CLASSIC BY RICHARD BARRIOS

A captivating, richly illustrated full account of the making of the groundbreaking movie, in which the onscreen drama and rivalries played out with equal intensity behind the scenes.

COSMOS: POSSIBLE WORLDS BY ANN DRUYAN

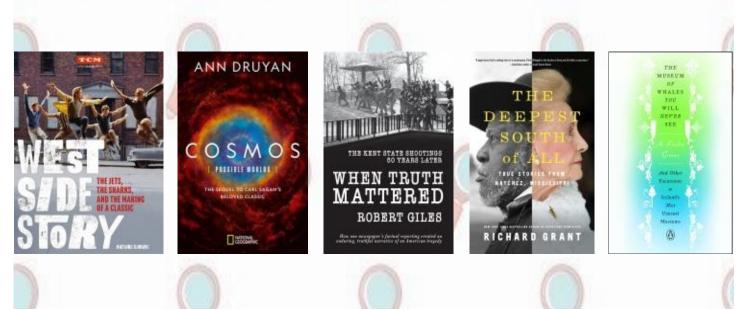
This sequel to Carl Sagan's classic continues the electrifying journey through space and time, envisioning worlds billions of miles away and a future of science tempered with wisdom.

WHEN TRUTH MATTERED: THE KENT STATE SHOOTINGS 50 YEARS LATER BY ROBERT GILES Giles shows how the Beacon Journal's Pulitzer Prize-winning coverage of the killings at Kent State was journalism done right, and how those standards must be applied today.

THE DEEPEST SOUTH OF ALL: TRUE STORIES FROM NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI BY RICHARD GRANT An entertaining and profound look at a city like no other, built on slavery and cotton, whose white citizens parade in antebellum costume but elect a gay Black man for mayor.

THE MUSEUM OF WHALES YOU WILL NEVER SEE: AND OTHER EXCURSIONS TO ICELAND'S MOST UNUSUAL MUSEUMS BY A. KENDRA GREENE

Take a tour through some of the world's oddest museums, collectively a cabinet of curiosities that maps in a unique way a people's fears and pleasures, past and future.





For Those Who Like to Keep Up

HATEMONGER: STEPHEN MILLER, DONALD TRUMP, AND THE WHITE NATIONALIST AGENDA BY JEAN GUERRERO

Investigative journalist Guerrero charts Miller's astonishing rise to power, drawing from more than one hundred interviews with his family, friends, adversaries and government officials.

THE END OF WHITE POLITICS: HOW TO HEAL OUR LIBERAL DIVIDE BY ZERLINA MAXWELL A hard look from a political insider and analyst at the so-called "liberal" party and what needs to be done for progressive politics to prevail and the playing field to be level.

IN DEEP: THE FBI, THE CIA, AND THE TRUTH ABOUT AMERICA'S "DEEP STATE" BY DAVID ROHDE

Based on dozens of interviews with career CIA operatives and FBI agents, Rohde investigates whether the FBI, CIA, or politicians are protecting or abusing the public's trust.

THIS IS ALL I GOT: A NEW MOTHER'S SEARCH FOR HOME BY LAUREN SANDLER A year of hope and despair in the life of a single mother as she struggles to lift herself and her baby out of poverty, navigating a broken system with no family to help her.

I GOT A MONSTER: THE RISE AND FALL OF AMERICA'S MOST CORRUPT POLICE SQUAD BY BAYNARD WOODS AND BRANDON SODERBERG

The explosive true story of America's most corrupt police unit, the Gun Trace Task Force, that terrorized the city of Baltimore for five years.

For the Biography (and Memoir) Lover

NEVER A LOVELY SO REAL: THE LIFE AND WORK OF NELSON ALGREN BY COLIN ASHER This definitive biography reclaims Algren—winner of the first National Book Award as a towering literary figure and exposes how his radical politics sabotaged his career.

PELOSI BY MOLLY BALL

A nuanced, page-turning portrait of this historic and underappreciated figure who took on a lawless president and defended American democracy.

TECUMSEH AND THE PROPHET: THE SHAWNEE BROTHERS WHO DEFIED A NATION BY PETER COZZENS

One brother was a warrior; the other, a seer. Together, they assembled the broadest Native confederation in U.S. history to save their people from annihilation.

THE DEAD ARE ARISING: THE LIFE OF MALCOLM X BY LES PAYNE AND TAMARA PAYNE A Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist offers an epic portrayal of the activist and leader who continues to influence American political thought. Winner of the National Book Award.

THE SMALLEST LIGHTS IN THE UNIVERSE: A MEMOIR BY SARA SEAGER

An MIT astrophysicist must reinvent herself in the wake of tragedy and discovers the power of connection on this planet, even as she searches our galaxy for another Earth.

