

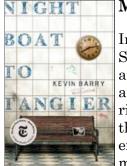
April 12 The Shadow King by Maaza Mengiste

With the threat of Mussolini's army looming, recently orphaned Hirut struggles to adapt to her new life as a maid. As the war begins in earnest, the Emperor goes into exile and Ethiopia quickly loses hope. Hirut helps disguise a gentle peasant as the emperor and soon becomes his guard, inspiring other women to take up arms against the Italians.

Noon Book Group

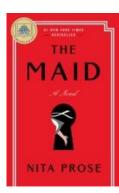
2023-24





May 10 Night Boat to Tangier by Kevin Barry

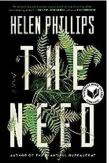
In the dark waiting room of the ferry terminal in the Spanish port of Algeciras, two aging Irishmen–Maurice and Charlie, longtime partners in drug smuggling–sit at night, none too patiently. They are expecting Maurice's estranged daughter to either arrive or depart on the Tangier boat. Their conversations cause them to excavate their shared history of violence, romance, mutual betrayals and serial exiles.



June 14 The Maid by Nita Prose

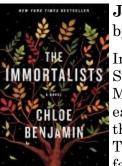
A charmingly eccentric hotel maid discovers a guest murdered in his bed, turning her once orderly world upside down—and inspiring a motley crew of unexpected allies to band together to solve the mystery. For details, contact Andy Moore, Assistant Director <u>amoore@minlib.net</u> 508-358-2311





October 13 The Need by Helen Phillips

[A] subversive speculative thriller about a mother of two young children who, by confronting a masked intruder in her home, slips into an existential rabbit hole where she grapples with the dualities of motherhood-joy and dread, longing and suffocation-in blazing, arresting prose.



January 12 The Immortalists by Chloe Benjamin

In 1969, the four rambunctious Gold children– Simon, Klara, Daniel, and Varya–visit a psychic on Manhattan's Lower East Side who predicts the date each of them will die. The novel then follows how the siblings deal with news of their expiration dates. Their story becomes a moving meditation on fate, faith, and the family ties that both hurt and heal.



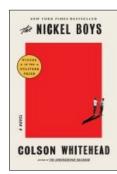
November 3 Feast Your Eyes by Myla Goldberg

After discovering photography as a teenager, Lillian rejects her parents' expectations of college and marriage and moves to New York City in 1953. When a small gallery exhibits partially nude photographs of Lillian and her daughter, mother and daughter's sudden notoriety changes the course of both of their lives.



February 9 Fight Night by Miriam Toews

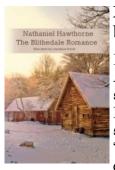
Cramped together in their Toronto home, Grandma and Swiv undertake a vital new project: explaining their lives in letters they will never send. Alternating between the exuberant, precocious voice of young Swiv and her irrepressible, tenacious Grandma, *Fight Night* is a love letter to mothers and grandmothers, and to all the women who are still fighting for a way to live on their own terms.



December 8 The Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead

When Elwood Curtis, a black boy growing up in 1960s Tallahassee, is unfairly sentenced to a brutal juvenile reformatory called the Nickel Academy, his only salvation is his friendship with fellow "delinquent" Turner. As life at the Academy becomes ever more perilous, the tension between Elwood's ideals and Turner's skepticism leads to a decision whose

repercussions will echo down the decades.



March 8 *The Blithedale Romance* by Nathaniel Hawthorne

From mesmerism to illicit love, *The Blithedale Romance* explores the limitations of human nature set against an experiment in communal living. Long considered one of Hawthorne's best and most sharply etched works, Henry James called it his "brightest" and "liveliest" novel, and Roy Male, acclaimed Americanist scholar, deemed it "one of the

most underrated works in American fiction."