

2016 ESO Booklist

Fiction

Miriam Toews, *All My Puny Sorrows*

Elf and Yoli are sisters raised in a Mennonite household and sharing the hardship of Elf's desire to end her own life.

Anthony Doerr, *All the Light We Cannot See*

Navigating the dark of World War II a German boy and a French girl survive using senses other than sight.

S.M. Hulse *Black River: A Novel*

This modern literary Western explores a man's redemptive journey and the possibility (and cost) of forgiveness.

Viet Thanh Nguyen, *The Sympathizer: A Novel*

A half-French, half-Vietnamese man serves as a double agent after the war, and struggles with the contradictions of his identity and loyalties.

Juliann Garey *Too Bright to Hear Too Loud to See*

The fragmented and unsettling perspective of a man grappling with mental illness.

Tartt, Donna *The Goldfinch*

A terrorist bomb blows apart a 13-year-old boy's world.

Eggers, Dave. *A Hologram for the King*.

An American salesman is in Saudi Arabia to close a deal which may salvage his way of life.

Erdrich, Louise. *The Round House*

On the Ojibwe reservation, Oop hunts for his mother's attacker and learns that law does not always provide justice.

Joyce, Rachel *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*

Delivering a letter to a dying friend becomes a 500 mile journey of reflection and redemption.

Tropper, Jonathan. *One Last Thing Before I Go*

No one can understand how Silver has made such a mess of his life. Can he fix it before the clock runs out?

M.I. Stedman. *The Light Between the Oceans*

After four harrowing years on the Western Front, Tom Sherbourne returns to Australia and takes a job as the lighthouse keeper on Janus Rock. To this isolated island, where the supply boat comes once a season, Tom brings a young, bold, and loving wife,

Isabel. Years later, after two miscarriages and one stillbirth, the grieving Isabel hears a baby's cries on the wind. A boat has washed up onshore carrying a dead man and a living baby.

Tom, who keeps meticulous records and whose moral principles have withstood a horrific war, wants to report the man and infant immediately. But Isabel insists the baby is a "gift from God," and against Tom's judgment, they claim her as their own and name her Lucy. When she is two, Tom and Isabel return to the mainland and are reminded that there are other people in the world.

Beauman, Sally. *The Visitors*.

Set in 1923 and featuring clever English schoolgirls; boorish, self-involved men; pitiable orphans; and the good-hearted types you find in Dickens.

Hannah, Kristen. *The Nightingale*

The stories of two sisters, separated by years and experience, by ideals, passion and circumstance, each embarking on her own dangerous path toward survival, love, and freedom in German-occupied, war-torn France--a heartbreakingly beautiful novel that celebrates the resilience of the human spirit and the durability of women.

Lee, Harper. *Go Set a Watchman*

Featuring many of the iconic characters from *To Kill a Mockingbird*, this story captures a young woman, and a world, in painful, yet necessary, transition out of the illusions of the past—a journey that can only be guided by one's own conscience.

Chiaverini, Jennifer. *Christmas Bells*

A novel inspired by the classic poem "Christmas Bells," by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

Doerr, Anthony. *All the Light We Cannot See*

Doerr's magnificently drawn novel rests, historically, during the occupation of France during WWII.

Acevedo, Chantel. *The Distant Marvels*

The elderly Maria Sirena has lived through and, as a young girl, participated in the Cuban war for independence; now, in 1963, at the dawn of Castro's new Cuba, with Hurricane Flora on the way, she is evacuated with other women to a historic mansion for shelter, where she entertains her fellow refugees with personal and richly imagined stories.

Landau, Alexis. *The Empire of the Senses*.

Explores the complex questions of loyalty and ethnic identity in its depiction of a mixed-faith family living through social change during WWI and 1920s Berlin.

Clegg, Bill. *Did You Ever Have a Family: A Novel*.

The aftermath of a tragedy and its rippling effects in a small Connecticut town.

Alcott, Kate. *A Touch of Stardust*.

Historical novel, which follows fictional Indiana native Julie Crawford after she moves to Los Angeles in 1938 to become a screenwriter and gets pulled into the activity surrounding the filming of *Gone with the Wind*.

Nonfiction

Blum, Howard. *Dark Invasion: 1915 Germany's Secret War and the Hunt for the First Terrorist Cell in America*

German spies collaborate to unleash a campaign of terror in the United States at the start of World War I.

Berman, Ali. *Give Us the Ballot: The Modern Struggle for Voting Rights in America*
History of the fight for universal suffrage in the United States.

McCullough, David. *The Wright Brothers*

Sullivan, Rosemary. *Stalin's Daughter: The Extraordinary and Tumultuous Life of Svetlana Alliluyeva*.

Brown, Daniel James *The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics*

Allen, Jeffery Renard. *Song of the Shank*.

Now a fairly obscure historical figure, Tom Wiggins, born a slave, became an international sensation as a pianist.

Fink, Sheri *Five Days at Memorial: Life and Death in a Storm-Ravaged Hospital*
After Hurricane Katrina, systematic failures lead to morally ambiguous decisions.

Chiaverini, Jennifer *Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker*

Historical novel unveils the private lives of Abraham and Mary Lincoln through the perspective of the First Lady's most trusted confidante and friend, her dressmaker, Elizabeth Keckley.

Northrup, Solomon. *Twelve Years A Slave*

True story of Solomon Northrup, who was born and raised as a freeman in New York.

Menache, David. *The Priority List*

In this inspiring memoir, a beloved high school English teacher with terminal brain cancer undertakes a cross-country journey to reunite with his former students in order to find out if he made a difference in their lives, discovering along the way what is truly important in life.

Kors, Eva. *Surviving the Angel of Death*

Eva Mozes Kor was just ten years old when she arrived in Auschwitz. While her parents and two older sisters were taken to the gas chambers, she and her twin, Miriam, were herded into the care of the man known as the Angel of Death, Dr. Josef Mengele. Subjected to sadistic medical experiments, she was forced to fight daily for her and her twin's survival. In this incredible true story written for young adults, readers learn of a child's endurance and survival in the face of truly extraordinary evil.

Stewart, Amy. *Girl Waits with Gun*

An enthralling novel based on the forgotten true story of one of the nation's first female deputy sheriffs.

Parker, John P. *His Promised Land: The Autobiography of John P. Parker, Former Slave and Conductor on the Underground Railroad Paperback*

John P. Parker is one of the few African Americans whose battle against slavery we can now turn to in his own words. He recounts dramatically how he helped fugitive slaves to cross the Ohio River from Kentucky and go north to freedom. He risked his life—hiding in coffins, diving off a steamboat with bounty hunters on his trail—and his freedom to fight for the freedom of his people.

Elizabeth A. Fenn. *Encounters at the Heart of the World: A History of the Mandan People*

An original narrative showing the Mandans, a Native American tribe in the Dakotas, as a people with a history.