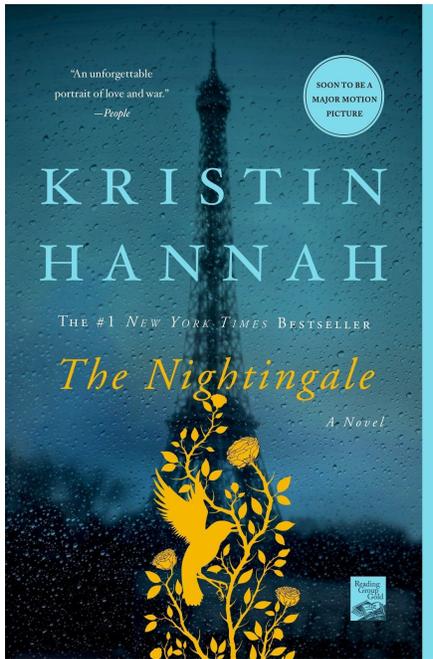


Ventress Memorial Library Virtual Staff Picks

March/April 2020

Fiction

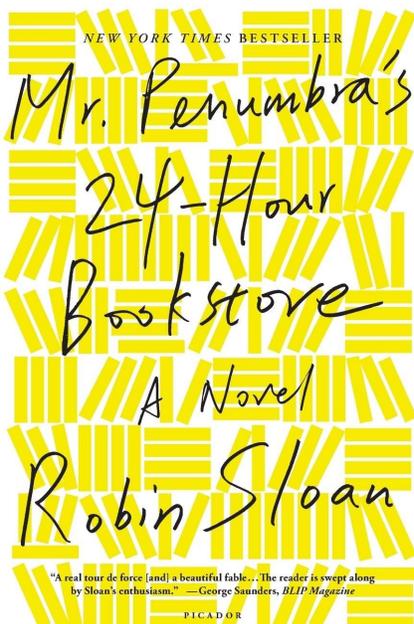
The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah



France, 1939. In the quiet village of Carriveau, Vianne Mauriac says goodbye to her husband Antoinem as he heads for the Front. She doesn't believe that the Nazis will invade France .. but invade they do. When a German captain requisitions Vianne's home, she and her daughter must live with the enemy or lose everything.

Available as an audiobook on Hoopla (<https://www.hoopladigital.com>), and as an ebook and audiobook on Overdrive (<https://ocln.overdrive.com>).

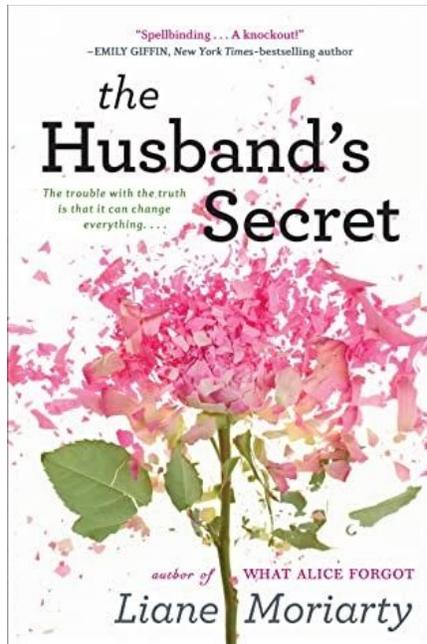
Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore by Robin Sloan



In this highly engrossing and exhilarating read, Sloan follows the adventures of Clay Jannon who has landed a new gig working the night shift at Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore. After just a few days on the job, Clay begins to realize that this store is even more curious than the name suggests. There are only a few customers, but they come in repeatedly and never seem to actually buy anything, instead "checking out" impossibly obscure volumes from strange corners of the store. The store must be a front for something larger - but what?

Available as an ebook and audiobook on Overdrive (<https://ocln.overdrive.com>).

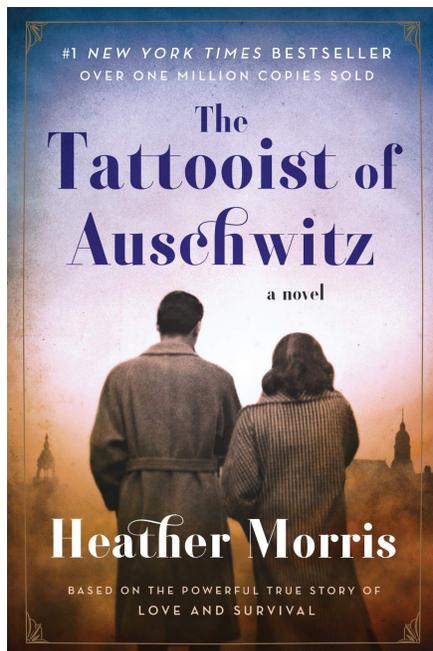
The Husband's Secret by Liane Moriarty



Imagine your husband wrote you a letter, to be opened after his death. Imagine, too, that the letter contains his deepest, darkest secret—something with the potential to destroy not only the life you built together, but the lives of others as well. And then imagine that you stumble across that letter while your husband is still very much alive...

Available as an audiobook on Hoopla (<https://www.hoopladigital.com>) and as an ebook and audiobook on Overdrive (<https://ocln.overdrive.com>).

The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris



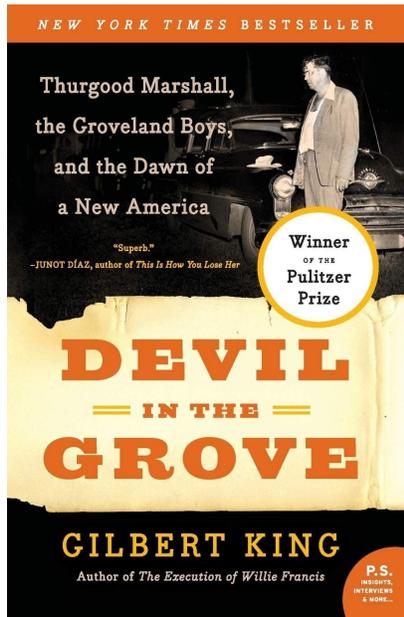
The #1 International Bestseller & *New York Times* Bestseller

This beautiful, illuminating tale of hope and courage is based on interviews that were conducted with Holocaust survivor and Auschwitz-Birkenau tattooist Ludwig (Lale) Sokolov. It is an unforgettable love story in the midst of atrocity.

Available as an audiobook on Hoopla (<https://www.hoopladigital.com>) and as an ebook and audiobook on Overdrive (<https://ocln.overdrive.com>).

Nonfiction

Devil in the Grove by Gilbert King

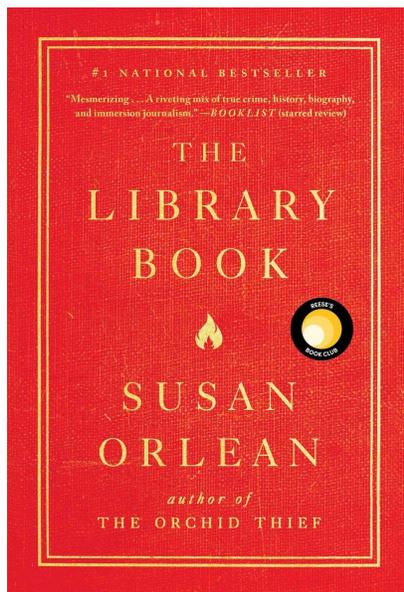


Selection of the VML non-fiction book group

Devil in the Grove, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for general nonfiction, is a gripping true story of racism, murder, rape, and the law. It brings to light one of the most dramatic court cases in American history, and offers a rare and revealing portrait of Thurgood Marshall that the world has never seen before.

Available on ebook and audiobook from Overdrive (<https://ocln.overdrive.com>).

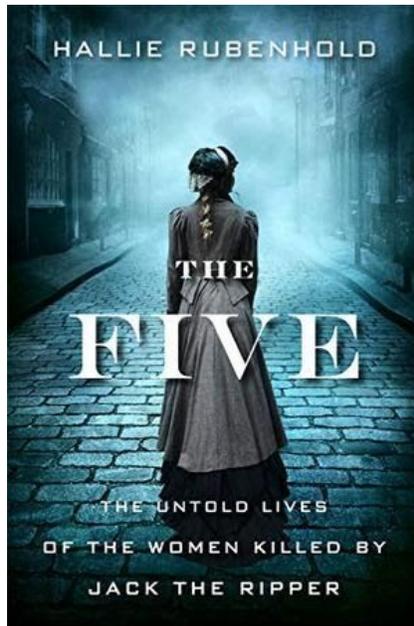
The Library Book by Susan Orlean



The Library Book by Susan Orlean details the horrific 1986 fire that destroyed Los Angeles' main library, an event which was overshadowed by the Chernobyl disaster. Along with describing the fire and the community's response to it, Orlean tells the history of the library, including its many directors, and the story of the young man believed to have started the fire. The book becomes a description of library service and purpose and how they have changed over time. The author also speaks with many of the present-day staff, adding anecdotes of patrons and happenings to describe what working in a library is really like. The result is a testament to the importance of libraries, not just in the past when digital content was not possible, but now when we are surrounded by it and libraries are often thought to be becoming obsolete.

Available on ebook and audiobook from Overdrive (<https://ocln.overdrive.com>).

The Five by Hallie Rubenhold



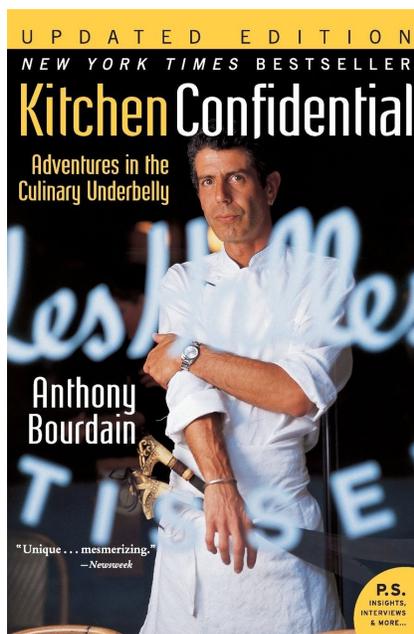
Jack the Ripper is a well-known historical figure despite, or possibly because of, the case never being resolved. Jack the Ripper has been the subject of novels, poems, songs, plays, movies, and even comic books, but what do we know about the victims? The common answer is usually that they were prostitutes and that's about it.

The Five by Hallie Rubenhold tells the history of the five most likely victims of the Ripper, only one of whom was a self-proclaimed prostitute. From their stories we learn of just how difficult it was for poor women in London at that time. It is a fascinating and thought-provoking book which is well worth reading!

“Rubenhold has produced a significant study of how poor and working-class women subsisted in an unforgiving age.” – The New York Times

The Five is available on ebook and audiobook on Hoopla (<https://www.hoopladigital.com>) and Overdrive (<https://ocln.overdrive.com>).

Kitchen Confidential by Anthony Bourdain



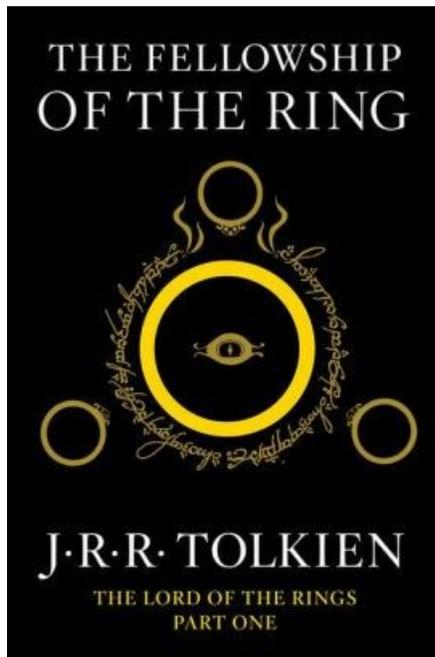
Selection of VML Non-Fiction Book Group

Enjoy a deliciously funny, delectably shocking banquet of wild-but-true tales of life in the culinary trade from the late Chef Anthony Bourdain, laying out his more than a quarter-century of drugs, sex, and haute cuisine.

Available on ebook and audiobook on Overdrive (<https://ocln.overdrive.com>).

Science fiction & fantasy

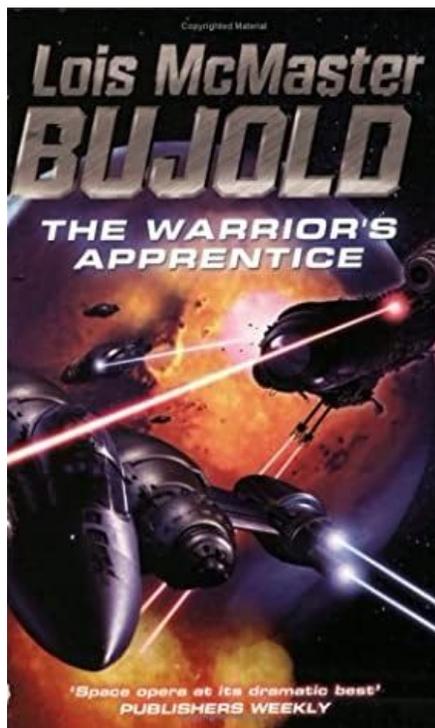
Lord of the Rings Trilogy by J. R. R. Tolkien



A dark power is rising that threatens the peaceful lives of the humans, elves, dwarves, and hobbits who inhabit the world of Middle Earth. To fight this power, an ordinary hobbit called Frodo sets off on a journey across the world with a small band of allies to destroy the magical ring that the dark power seeks above all else. The audiobook version is highly recommended; British actor, playwright, and Tolkien fan Rob Inglis narrates the audiobooks beautifully with a deep, calm, sophisticated voice, and sings all the songs incorporated into the text - even the elvish ones - with confidence and catchy tunes.

Available as audiobooks through Boston Public Library RBDigital (<https://bostonma.rbdigital.com/>), and as ebooks through Overdrive (<https://ocln.overdrive.com>). The first book is *The Fellowship of the Ring*.

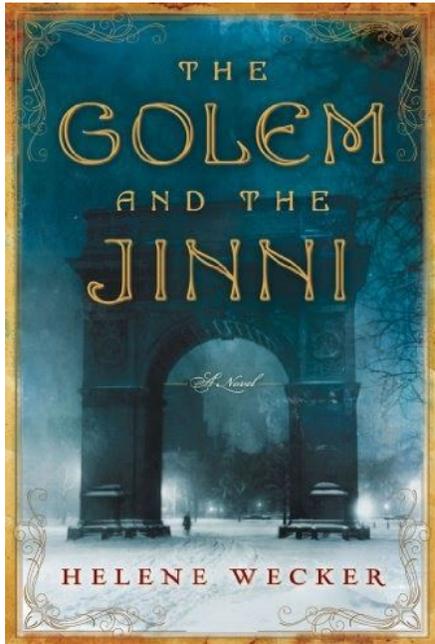
Audiobook Recommendation: Vorkosigan Saga by Lois McMaster Bujold, narrated by Grover Gardner



This long-running science fiction series brings together adventure, action, mystery, humor, and thoughtful character development into one engaging package. Miles Vorkosigan is a physically disabled member of a military aristocracy on a distant planet in a future where the human race has spread throughout the galaxy. At 17, after his disabilities have ruined his dreams of entering his planet's military academy, he unexpectedly finds himself in charge of a space mercenary fleet with only his bodyguard and his best friend for backup - and that's just the beginning of the first book. The series follows Miles into middle age and covers a wide range of genres, including military, mystery, heist story, romance, and even comedy of manners. The author's suggested reading order can be found [here](#).

Audiobooks available through Hoopla (<https://www.hoopladigital.com>), BPL Overdrive (<https://bpl.overdrive.com>), CWMARS Overdrive (<https://cwmars.overdrive.com>).

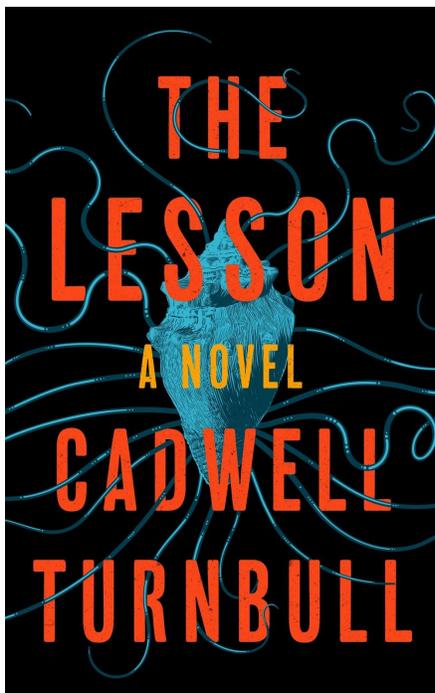
The Golem and the Jinni by Helene Wecker



It's 1899, and a Jewish golem and a Syrian jinni find themselves in New York City, where they try to adapt to life in their respective immigrant communities. This is a lyrical, immersive story that weaves fables and mysticism into turn of the century immigrant life, where people from disparate backgrounds try to find somewhere they can belong.

The audiobook is beautifully narrated by the great George Guidall, and can be found on Hoopla (<https://www.hoopladigital.com/title/11632359>) and OCLN Overdrive (<https://ocln.overdrive.com/>). The ebook can be found on several MA Overdrive networks, including BPL: <https://bpl.overdrive.com/>

The Lesson by Cadwell Turnbull



This quiet and insightful story follows inhabitants of the Virgin Islands over several years as they try to live their lives against the background of a mysterious alien invasion. Turnbull, who originally hails from the Virgin Islands himself but is now local to the Boston area, addresses themes of colonialism, growing up, and everyday life in unprecedentedly unsettled times.

Ebook and audiobook available on Hoopla: <https://www.hoopladigital.com/artist/3779400325>