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Leave the World Behind By Rumaan Alam 2020 (fiction)	"Leave the World Behind" explores how our closest bonds are reshaped -- and new ones are forged -- in moments of crisis. Amanda and Clay head out to a remote corner of Long Island expecting a vacation: a quiet reprieve from life in New York City, quality time with their teenage son and daughter, and a taste of the good life in the luxurious home they've rented for the week. But a late-night knock on the door breaks the spell. Ruth and G. H., the homeowners, have arrived in a panic with the news that a blackout has swept the city. But in this rural area -- with the TV and Internet down, and no cell phone service -- it's hard to know what to believe. Should Amanda and Clay trust this couple -- and vice versa? What happened back in New York? Is the vacation home, isolated from civilization, a safe place for their families? And are they safe from one other?
Salt Houses By Hala Alyan 2017 (fiction)	On the eve of her daughter Alia's wedding, Salma reads the girl's future in a cup of coffee dregs. She sees an unsettled life for Alia and her children; she also sees travel and luck. While she chooses to keep her predictions to herself that day, they will all soon come to pass when the family is uprooted in the wake of the Six-Day Arab-Israeli War of 1967. Salma is forced to leave her home in Nablus; Alia's brother gets pulled into a politically militarized world he can't escape; and Alia and her gentle-spirited husband move to Kuwait City, where they reluctantly build a life with their three children. When Saddam Hussein invades Kuwait in 1990, Alia and her family once again lose their home, their land, and their story as they know it, scattering to Beirut, Paris, Boston and beyond. Soon Alia's children begin families of their own, once again navigating the burdens (and blessings) of assimilation in foreign cities.
Whisper Network By Chandler Baker 2019 (fiction)	Sloane, Ardie and Grace have worked at Truviv, Inc. for years. The sudden death of Truviv's CEO means their boss, Ames, will likely take over the entire company. Each woman has a different relationship with Ames, who has been surrounded by whispers about his treatment of women. As the world changes, the women are watching this promotion differently. When they find out Ames is making an inappropriate move on a colleague, they won't let it go. Sloane and her colleagues' decision to take a stand sets in motion a catastrophic shift in the office. Lies will be uncovered. Secrets will be exposed. And not everyone will survive.
Personal Librarian By Marie Benedict 2021 (historical fiction)	In her twenties, Belle da Costa Greene is hired by J.P. Morgan to create a collection of rare manuscripts, books and artwork for his new Morgan Library. Belle becomes a fixture on the New York society scene and one of the most powerful people in the art and book world. She's known for her impeccable taste and shrewd negotiating for critical works as she helps build a world-class collection. But Belle has a secret. She was born Belle Marion Greener, the daughter of Richard Greener, the first Black graduate of Harvard and well-known advocate for equality. Belle attributes her dusky complexion to a fictitious Portuguese heritage; she passes for white, but fears someone will discover she is African American.
A Forty Year Kiss By Nikolas Butler 2025 (fiction)	Charlie and Vivian parted ways after just four years of marriage. Too many problems, too many struggles. When Charlie returns to Wisconsin forty years later, he's not sure what he'll find. Still, he's decided to reconnect with Vivian in hopes of picking up the broken pieces of their past. But four decades is a long time. It's forty years of other relationships, forty years of building new lives, and forty years of long-held regrets, mistakes, and painful secrets.
Your House Will Pay By Steph Cha 2019 (fiction)	In the wake of the police shooting of a black teenager, Los Angeles is a pressure cooker. But Grace Park and Shawn Matthews have their own problems. Grace is sheltered and largely oblivious, living in the Valley with her Korean-immigrant parents, working long hours at the family pharmacy. She's distraught that her sister hasn't spoken to their mother in two years, for reasons beyond Grace's understanding. Shawn has already had enough of politics and protest after an act of violence shattered his family years ago. He just wants to be left alone to enjoy his quiet life in Palmdale. But when another shocking crime hits LA, the Park and Matthews families are forced to face down their shared history while navigating the tumult of a city on the brink of more violence.

Redwood Court By DeLana R.A. Dameron 2024 (fiction)	The baby of the family, Mika Mosby spends much of her time in the care of loved ones, listening to their stories and secrets, witnessing their struggles. Growing up on Redwood Court, the cul-de-sac in the working-class suburb of Columbia, South Carolina, where her grandparents live, Mika learns important, sometimes difficult lessons from the people who raise her. Her exhausted parents work long hours at multiple jobs to make sure their kids experience the adventure of family vacations. In a house filled with Motown, Mika's older sister listens to Alanis Morrisette and can't wait to taste real independence. Her grandparents, children of Jim Crow, savor their own vision of success in the house on Redwood Court, imagining it filled with future generations. Meanwhile, their many neighbors on the Court hold tight to the community they've built, committed to fostering joy and love in an America that seems intent on seeing Black people stumble and fall.
The Music of Bees By Eileen Garvin 2021 (fiction)	This novel follows three lonely strangers in a rural Oregon town. Each working through grief and life's curveballs, they are brought together by happenstance at a honeybee farm. They find surprising friendship, healing -- maybe even a second chance -- just when they least expect it.
Last White Man By Mohsin Hamid 2022 (fiction)	One morning, a man wakes up to find himself transformed. Overnight, Anders's skin has turned dark, and the reflection in the mirror seems a stranger to him. At first, he shares his secret only with Oona, an old friend turned new lover. Soon, reports of similar events begin to surface. Across the land, people are awakening in new incarnations, uncertain how their neighbors, friends, and family will greet them. Some see the transformations as the long-dreaded overturning of the established order. In many, like Anders's father and Oona's mother, a sense of profound loss and unease wars with profound love. As the bond between Anders and Oona deepens, change takes on a different shading: a chance at a kind of rebirth -- an opportunity to see ourselves, face to face, anew.
One Summer in Savannah By Terah Shelton Harris 2023 (fiction)	It's been eight years since Sara Lancaster left her home in Savannah, Georgia. Eight years since her daughter, Alana, came into this world, following a terrifying sexual assault that left deep emotional wounds Sara would do anything to forget. But when Sara's father falls ill, she's forced to return home and face the ghosts of her past. While caring for her father and running his bookstore, Sara is desperate to protect her curious, outgoing, genius daughter from the Wylers, the family of the man who assaulted her. Sara thinks she can succeed. Her attacker is in prison; his identical twin brother, Jacob, left town years ago; and the whole family is unaware Alana exists. Then Jacob turns up in Savannah to piece together the fragments of his once-great family. And when their two worlds collide -- with the type of force Sara explores in her poetry and Jacob in his astrophysics -- they are drawn together in unexpected ways.
Stay True By Hua Hsu 2022 (memoir)	In the eyes of 18-year-old Hua Hsu, the problem with Ken -- with his passion for Dave Matthews, Abercrombie & Fitch, and his fraternity -- is that he is exactly like everyone else. Ken, whose Japanese-American family has been in the U.S. for generations, is mainstream. For Hua, the son of Taiwanese immigrants, who makes zines and haunts Bay Area record shops, Ken represents all that he opposes. They find commonality in that, however they engage with it, American culture doesn't seem to have a place for either of them. But despite his first impressions, Hua and Ken become friends, bonding over late-night conversations, long drives along the California coast, and the successes and humiliations of everyday college life. And then violently, senselessly, Ken is gone, killed in a carjacking just a few years after they first met. Determined to hold on to all that was left of one of his closest friends -- his memories -- Hua turns to writing. "Stay True" is a coming-of-age story that details both the ordinary and extraordinary. It's a bracing memoir about growing up and moving through the world in search of meaning and belonging.

The Remains of the Day By Kazuo Ishiguro 1989 (historical fiction)	In the summer of 1956, Stevens, a long-serving butler at Darlington Hall, decides to take a trip through the West Country. The six-day excursion becomes a journey into the past of Stevens – as well as and England. That history includes fascism, two world wars, and the unrealized love between Stevens and his housekeeper.
Searching for Sylvie Lee By Jean Kwok 2019 (fiction)	This novel untangles the complicated ties binding three women -- two sisters and their mother -- in one Chinese immigrant family. “Searching for Sylvie Lee” explores what happens when the eldest daughter disappears and a series of family secrets emerge.
Dream Hotel By Laila Lalami 2025 (fiction)	Sara has just landed at LAX when agents from the Risk Assessment Administration pull her aside and inform her that she will soon commit a crime. Using data from her dreams, the RAA's algorithm has determined that she will harm her husband. For his safety, she must be kept under observation for 21 days. Sara is detained with other dreamers, all of them women trying to prove their innocence. With every deviation from the strict and ever-shifting rules of the facility, their stay is extended. Months pass, and Sara seems no closer to release. One day, a new resident arrives, disrupting the order of the facility and leading Sara on a collision course with the very companies that have deprived her of her freedom.
How to Do Nothing: Resisting the Attention Economy By Jenny Odell 2019 (nonfiction)	Nothing is harder these days than nothing. But in a world where our value is decided by our 24/7 data productivity, doing nothing may be our most important form of resistance. So, argues artist and critic Jenny Odell, who sees our attention as the most precious -- and overdrawn –r resource we have.
True Grit By Charles Portis 1968 (historical fiction)	In the 1870s, young Mattie Ross learns that her beloved father has been gunned down by his former handyman. But even though this gutsy 14-year-old is seeking vengeance, she is smart enough to figure out she can't go alone after a desperado who's holed up with a cut-throat gang. With some fast-talking, she convinces mean, one-eyed U.S. Marshal "Rooster" Cogburn into going after the despicable outlaw with her.
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn By Betty Smith 1943 (fiction)	This is the story of young, sensitive and idealistic Francie Nolan and her bittersweet formative years in the slums of Williamsburg. It’s enchanted and inspired millions of readers for more than 80 years. By turns overwhelming, sublime, heartbreaking and uplifting, the daily experiences of the unforgettable Nolans are raw with honesty and tenderly threaded with family connectedness. “A Tree Grows in Brooklyn” is a work of literary art that brilliantly captures a unique time and place as well as incredibly rich moments of universal experience.
Just Mercy By Bryan Stevenson 2014 (memoir)	The founder of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama, recounts his experiences as a lawyer working to help those in desperate need. His memoir describes early days with a small staff facing the nation’s highest death sentencing and execution rates, through a successful campaign to challenge the cruel practice of sentencing children to die in prison, to revolutionary projects designed to confront Americans with our history of racial injustice.

The Things We Never Say Elizabeth Strout 2026 (fiction)	Artie Dam is a man with a secret. He goes about his days teaching American history to high-schoolers, correcting their casual ignorance, and lending a kind word to those who need it most. He spends his free time sailing the beautiful Massachusetts Bay or with his adult son and his wife of more than three decades. Meanwhile, Artie is planning an event that will forever change the world he inhabits. But when a startling accident awakens a new perspective in Artie, he realizes that life has a secret it's been keeping from him. He discovers a lot about the weighty matters of fate and freedom in his home and his country, and he charts another course full of grief, hilarity, and heart, to a place where the end marks the beginning.
Project Hail Mary By Andy Weir 2021 (fiction)	Ryland Grace is the sole survivor of a desperate, last-chance mission -- and if he fails, humanity and the Earth itself will perish. But he doesn't know that. He can't even remember his name, let alone the nature of his assignment or how to complete it. All he knows is that he's been asleep for a very, very long time. He’s awakened to find himself millions of miles from home, with nothing but two corpses for company. His crewmates dead, his memories fuzzily returning, Ryland realizes that an impossible task now confronts him. Hurtling through space on this tiny ship, it's up to him to puzzle out an impossible scientific mystery -- and conquer an extinction-level threat to humanity. With the clock ticking down and the nearest human being light-years away, he's got to do it all alone.
All the Colors of the Dark By Chris Whitaker 2024 (fiction)	Girls are disappearing in Monta Clare, Missouri, in 1975. When the daughter of a wealthy family is targeted, a most unlikely hero appears. While Patch saves the girl, he leaves heartache in his wake. Patch and those who love him soon discover that the line between triumph and tragedy has never been finer. And that their search for answers will lead them to truths that could mean losing one another. "All the Colors of the Dark" offers a missing person mystery, a serial killer thriller, a love story -- with unique twists on each.
Harlem Shuffle By Colson Whitehead 2021 (historical fiction)	“Ray Carney was only slightly bent when it came to being crooked..." To his customers and neighbors on 125th Street, Ray is an upstanding salesman of reasonably priced furniture, making a decent life for himself and his family. Few people know he descends from a line of uptown hoods and crooks, and that his façade of normalcy has more than a few cracks in it. Cracks that are getting bigger all the time. The trouble continues apace in this novel of heists, shakedowns, and rip-offs set in Harlem in the 1960s.