

APPENDIX A

Book Review on the Category of Non-Fiction

Sub-Category: Sciences

1. Stem Cells For Dummies

Lawrence S. B. Goldstein, Meg Schneider (Author)

The first authoritative yet accessible guide to this controversial topic. Stem Cell Research For Dummies offers a balanced, plain-English look at this politically charged topic, cutting away the hype and presenting the facts clearly for you, free from debate. It explains what stem cells are and what they do, the legalities of harvesting them and using them in research, the latest research findings from the U.S. and abroad, and the prospects for medical stem cell therapies in the short and long term.

Explains the differences between adult stem cells and embryonic/umbilical cord stem cells

Provides both sides of the political debate and the pros and cons of each side's opinions

Includes medical success stories using stem cell therapy and its promise for the future

Comprehensive and unbiased, Stem Cell Research For Dummies is the only guide you need to understand this volatile issue.

2 Essentials of Stem Cell Biology, Second Edition

Robert Lanza (Editor)

This large book follows the common trend in new and emerging sciences in being written by a large number of authors who are active researchers in the

field. The science simply has not yet had time to resolve itself into a common body of knowledge that one author can present to the world.

In this book there are some 200 contributors from literally around the world. A quick scan shows people from the United States, Israel, the UK, Italy, Switzerland, Australia, Japan and more. As you would expect each team of authors concentrates on the particular area of research in which he is engaged. This gives you an up to date view of the state of the art at the risk of having chapters of unequal quality.

The book starts off with the simple question, “What are stem cells.” There are then chapters on what they do, how they work, methods and procedures used in research, and several chapters on how stem cell research is developing treatments for various diseases. The book concludes with four chapters on the regulations and ethics of stem cell research. This includes chapters on governmental and religious aspects. This sections concludes with a paper by the actress Mary Tyler Moore who has had type 1 diabetes for more than 40 years. She titles her chapter “It’s Not About Curiosity, It’s About Cures.”

This book is the definitive state of the art as it exists today.

3. Planets: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions)

David A. Rothery (Author)

From the rings of Saturn to the “canals” of Mars and the Great Red Dot of Jupiter, the planets of our Solar System have long fascinated humanity. Featuring many striking photos, this Very Short Introduction offers a fascinating

portrait of the unique world of each planet as well as an illuminating discussion of moons, asteroids, and Trans-Neptunian objects.

Leading planetary scientist David A. Rothery, who has chaired the European Space Agency's Mercury surface and composition working group since 2007, gives a stimulating overview of the origin, nature, and evolution of our Solar System, including the controversial issues of what qualifies as a planet, and what conditions are required for a planetary body to support life. He explains how the surfaces of planets and moons have been sculpted by geology, weather, and impacts by meteors and asteroids. Rothery shows how our knowledge has advanced over the centuries, and how it has expanded at a dramatic rate in recent years, going far beyond our Solar System to explore planets orbiting distant stars.

4. Archimedes to Hawking: Laws of Science and the Great Minds Behind Them Clifford Pickover (Author)

From the rings of Saturn to the “canals” of Mars and the Great Red Dot of Jupiter, the planets of our Solar System have long fascinated humanity. Featuring many striking photos, this Very Short Introduction offers a fascinating portrait of the unique world of each planet as well as an illuminating discussion of moons, asteroids, and Trans-Neptunian objects. Leading planetary scientist David A. Rothery, who has chaired the European Space Agency's Mercury surface and composition working group since 2007, gives a stimulating

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5. Big Bang: The Origin of the Universe (P.S.)

Simon Singh (Author)

It was cosmologist Fred Hoyle who coined the term “big bang” to describe the notion that the universe exploded out of nothing to kick-start space and time. Ironically, Hoyle himself espoused the steady state theory, positing that the universe is eternal and never really changes. Former BBC producer and science writer Singh (*Fermat’s Enigma*) recounts in his inimitable down-to-earth style how the big bang theory triumphed. Readers will find here one of the best explanations available of how Cepheid stars are used to estimate the distance of other galaxies. Singh highlights some of the lesser-known figures in the development of the big bang theory, like Henrietta Leavitt, a volunteer “computer” at the Harvard College Observatory who in 1912 discovered how Cepheid stars can be used to measure galactic distances. Singh shows how the creation of the heavier elements was a major stumbling block to widespread adoption of the big bang until Hoyle (once again boosting the theory that he

so fervently opposed) proved that they were created in stars' nuclear furnaces and strewn throughout the universe via supernova explosions. Readers who don't need a review of the early development of cosmology may wish that Singh had adopted a somewhat less leisurely pace. But his introductory chapters hold a lot of worthwhile material, clearly presented for the science buff and lay reader. There's no better account of the big bang theory than this.

6. Germs, Genes, & Civilization: How Epidemics

Shaped Who We Are Today

David P. Clark (Author)

Clark (*Molecular Biology Made Simple and Fun*) argues that microscopic bacteria, viruses, and fungi have played an enormous and largely unacknowledged role in human history. Beginning with Attila's attack of Rome, which was likely stopped by dysentery, and continuing through modern diseases such as AIDS and the Ebola virus, Clark investigates a large number of illnesses and uncovers the ways in which they have impacted historical events. The same genes that provide humanity with protection against some endemic diseases, Clark argues, may also cause sickle cell anemia and cystic fibrosis. With wit and humor, the author turns death, an ever-heavy topic, into an engrossing exploration of the course of mankind. Though Clark's lack of references will make it difficult for readers to gain additional information, there's much of interest in this chronicle of microbes through the ages.

7. Cell of Cells: The Global Race to Capture

and Control the Stem Cell

Cynthia Fox (Author)

Cynthia Fox is an award-winning science writer whose work has appeared in a variety of high-profile populist publications. Her new book on human embryonic stem (hES) cells is a fascinating and accessible work. . . The book contains a myriad of fascinating and disturbing tales. The reader cannot but be overwhelmed by the awesomeness of the discoveries which are in the process constantly now of coming to light. This early part of the 21st century is a remarkable time. Many of the components of stem cell research, though, are not so edifying. Fox chronicles frightening examples of greed, unethical conduct and utter indifference to ethical proprieties. Apart from anything else, stem cell research is big business, huge business. Fox has done a fine job in documenting the early and inglorious years of stem cell research. She has rendered an important service in making much that is inaccessible understanding and engaging. The challenge now is for science, medicine and law to cooperate in ways which are meaningful and effective to curb the excesses of avarice and ambition in relation to stem cell developments. Fox's Cell of Cells should be compulsory reading for anyone wanting to understand where stem cell research has come from, where it is likely to head and the kinds of dilemmas that it will pose for the human race."

**8. The Elements: A Visual Exploration of
Every Known Atom in the Universe
Theodore Gray (Author)**



Gray, an element collector and Popular Science columnist, has created a visual homage to the periodic table of the elements. The book begins with an introduction to the arrangement of the periodic table. The first 100 of the elements are each profiled on a two-page spread. The left-hand side of the spread features a large color image of the element in its true form, when possible. The right-hand side includes various images of ways the element appears in the world and explanations of some of the compounds in which it can be found. For example, the Selenium entry includes images of selenium sulfide medicated shampoo, Brazil nuts (which are high in selenium), and a red vase that gets its color from a selenium glaze. Most of the images are items from the author's personal collection. A column running down the right-hand page offers information on the element's location in the periodic table and its atomic weight, density, atomic radius, and crystal structure in addition to charts portraying its electron order filling, atomic emission spectrum, and states of matter at various temperatures. Because of their instability and short half-life, or because they have not yet been discovered, elements 101 through 118 are presented in two groups of nine. The volume concludes with a brief bibliography and an index in addition to a foldout poster of the periodic table. This eye-catching book is certain to appeal to students and casual browsers alike.

9. Biology with MasteringBiology™ (8th Edition)

Neil A. Campbell (Author)

The best-selling biology textbook in the world just got better! Neil Campbell and Jane Reece's BIOLOGY is the unsurpassed leader in introductory biology. The book's hallmark values—accuracy, currency, and passion for teaching and learning—have made Campbell/Reece the most successful book for readers for seven consecutive editions. More than 6 million readers have benefited from BIOLOGY's clear explanations, carefully crafted artwork, and student-friendly narrative style.

10. The Biology of Belief: Unleashing the Power of Consciousness, Matter and Miracles [Abridged, Audiobook]

Bruce H. Lipton (Author)

Since the publication of *The Biology of Belief*, Dr. Bruce Lipton has received widespread acclaim as one of the most accessible and knowledgeable voices of “new biology.” The science is called epigenetics a revolutionary field that shows us how the energy of consciousness is as important in shaping life on earth as DNA and chemistry. In this original author adaptation, Dr. Lipton brings his clarity, insight, and humor to unveiling a profound change in how we perceive the way life works, including:

1. How environment including our thoughts and emotion controls the character of every cell

2. Quantum physics and life: the key to understanding the bigger picture of how mind over matter works
3. Cooperation and evolution moving beyond the “selfish gene” theory to see that a natural trend toward harmony literally shapes the biosphere
4. Why the oft-dismissed placebo effect is really the most powerful healing tool we have, and much more. As scientists have mapped the human genome, it has become clear that there are important aspects of life that defy our traditional models of evolution. The “missing link,” according to Dr. Lipton, is consciousness. With *The Biology of Belief*, listeners join this groundbreaking researcher to learn how this new science radically alters both how we understand life on earth and how we choose to live.

APPENDIX B

Book Review on the Category of Non-Fiction

Sub-Category: Economics and Finance

1. Basic Economics, Fourth Edition: A Common Sense

Guide to the Economy

Thomas Sowell (Author)

A fully revised (4th) edition of the classic introduction to economics from Thomas Sowell, one of America's leading economists.

The fourth edition of Basic Economics is both expanded and updated. A new chapter on the history of economics itself has been added, and the implications of that history examined. Among other additions throughout the book, a new section on the special role of corporations in the economy has been added to the chapter on government and big business.

Basic Economics, which has now been translated into six foreign languages, has grown so much that a large amount of material previously found in the back of the book has now been put online instead so that neither the book itself nor its price will have to expand. The central idea of Basic Economics, however, remains the same: The fundamental facts and principles of economics do not require jargon, graphs, or equations and can be learned in a relaxed and even enjoyable way.

2. Statistics for Business and Economics

David R. Anderson, Dennis J. Sweeney (Author)

This market-leading text from well-respected authors Anderson/Sweeney/Williams introduces sound statistical methodology within a strong applications

setting. A wealth of real business examples, proven methods, and application exercises within STATISTICS FOR BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS, Revised 10e clearly demonstrate how statistical results provide insights into business decisions and present solutions to contemporary business problems. Comprehensive coverage, trusted for its accuracy, allows you to select the topics best for your course, including coverage of the latest statistical and business software to manage statistical information. This edition's accessible approach is strengthened with the innovative new CengageNOW integrated online course management and learning system that saves you time while using personalized study plans to ensure student understanding.

3. African Americans in the U.S. Economy

**Cecilia A. Conrad, Cecilia Conrad, Patrick Mason,
James Stewart (Author)**

Over the last several decades, academic discourse on racial inequality has focused primarily on political and social issues with significantly less attention on the complex interplay between race and economics. *African Americans in the U.S. Economy* represents a contribution to recent scholarship that seeks to lessen this imbalance. This book builds upon, and significantly extends, the principles, terminology, and methods of standard economics and black political economy. Influenced by path-breaking studies presented in several scholarly economic journals, this volume is designed to provide a political-economic analysis of the past and present economic status of African

Americans. The chapters in this volume represent the work of some of the nation's most distinguished scholars on the various topics presented. The individual chapters cover several well-defined areas, including black employment and unemployment, labor market discrimination, black entrepreneurship, racial economic inequality, urban revitalization, and black economic development. The book is written in a style free of the technical jargon that characterizes most economics textbooks. While the book is methodologically sophisticated, it is accessible to a wide range of students and the general public and will appeal to academicians and practitioners alike.

4. When Work Disappears: The World of the New Urban Poor

William Julius Wilson (Author)

An unofficial adviser to President Bill Clinton, Wilson has become a celebrity of sorts. A former University of Chicago professor, Wilson--currently on staff at Harvard--has been profiled in *The New Yorker* and dubbed one of America's most influential people by *Time* magazine. A respected thinker on issues of race and poverty, the author of *The Declining Significance of Race* and *The Truly Disadvantaged* offers his take on welfare and inner-city joblessness in *When Work Disappears*. Racism, Wilson argues, plays increasingly less of a role in urban problems. More significant, he claims, are changes in the global economy and the disappearance of unskilled but decent-paying jobs near cities; according to Wilson, these factors have deprived the urban working class of

steady jobs, destroyed inner-city businesses, and caused younger, upwardly mobile residents to flee for the suburbs.

5. Off the Books: The Underground Economy of the Urban Poor

Sudhir Alladi Venkatesh (Author)

In this revealing study of a Southside Chicago neighborhood, sociologist Venkatesh opens a window on how the poor live. Focusing on domestics, entrepreneurs, hustlers, preachers and gangs linked in an underground economy that “manages to touch all households,” the book reveals how residents struggle between “their desires to live a just life and their needs to make ends meet as best they can.” In this milieu, African-American mechanics, painters, hairdressers, musicians and informal security guards are linked to prostitutes, drug dealers, gun dealers and car thieves in illegal enterprises that even police and politicians are involved in, though not all are criminals in the usual sense. Storefront clergy, often dependent “on the underground for their own livelihood,” serve as mediators and brokers between individuals and gang members, who have “insinuated themselves and their drug money into the deepest reaches of the community.” Although the book’s academic tenor is occasionally wearying, Venkatesh keeps his work vital and poignant by using the words of his subjects, who are as dependent on this intricate web as they are fearful of its dangers.

6. Economics of Money, Banking, and Financial Markets,

Business School Edition, The (2nd Edition)

Frederic S. Mishkin (Author)

The Economics of Money, Banking, and Financial Markets set the standard for money and banking courses when it published in its first edition, and it continues to be the worldwide market leader. The historic economic events and financial crises of late 2008 have changed the entire landscape of money and banking. Having just served as Governor of the Federal Reserve, only Mishkin has the unique insider's perspective needed to present the current state of money and banking and explain the latest debates and issues for today's readers. For professors who teach with less emphasis on monetary theory and prefer to focus more time on financial institutions, the Business School Edition is the ideal alternative.

7. Essentials of Investments with S&P card

Zvi Bodie (Author), Alex Kane (Author), Alan Marcus (Author)

The market leading undergraduate investments textbook, Essentials of Investments, 8e by Bodie, Kane and Marcus, emphasizes asset allocation while presenting the practical applications of investment theory. The authors have eliminated unnecessary mathematical detail and concentrate on the intuition and insights that will be useful to practitioners throughout their careers as new ideas and challenges emerge from the financial marketplace. The eighth edition has

been fully updated to reflect the recent financial crisis and includes a new chapter on Hedge Funds.

8. The Road to Serfdom

F. A. Hayek (Author)

An unimpeachable classic work in political philosophy, intellectual and cultural history, and economics, *The Road to Serfdom* has inspired and infuriated politicians, scholars, and general readers for half a century. Originally published in 1944 when Eleanor Roosevelt supported the efforts of Stalin, and Albert Einstein subscribed lock, stock, and barrel to the socialist program *The Road to Serfdom* was seen as heretical for its passionate warning against the dangers of state control over the means of production. For F. A. Hayek, the collectivist idea of empowering government with increasing economic control would lead not to a utopia but to the horrors of Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy.

First published by the University of Chicago Press on September 18, 1944, *The Road to Serfdom* garnered immediate, widespread attention. The first printing of 2,000 copies was exhausted instantly, and within six months more than 30,000 books were sold. In April 1945, *Reader's Digest* published a condensed version of the book, and soon thereafter the Book-of-the-Month Club distributed this edition to more than 600,000 readers. A perennial best seller, the book has sold 400,000 copies in the United States alone and has been translated into more than twenty languages, along the way becoming one of the most important and influential books of the century.

With this new edition, *The Road to Serfdom* takes its place in the series *The Collected Works of F. A. Hayek*. The volume includes a foreword by series editor and leading Hayek scholar Bruce Caldwell explaining the book's origins and publishing history and assessing common misinterpretations of Hayek's thought. Caldwell has also standardized and corrected Hayek's references and added helpful new explanatory notes. Supplemented with an appendix of related materials ranging from prepublication reports on the initial manuscript to forewords to earlier editions by John Chamberlain, Milton Friedman, and Hayek himself, this new edition of *The Road to Serfdom* will be the definitive version of Friedrich Hayek's enduring masterwork.

9. Corporate Finance

Stephen A. Ross (Author)

Corporate Finance, by Ross, Westerfield, and Jaffe is a popular textbook that emphasizes the modern fundamentals of the theory of finance, while providing contemporary examples to make the theory come to life. The authors aim to present corporate finance as the working of a small number of integrated and powerful intuitions, rather than a collection of unrelated topics. They develop the central concepts of modern finance: arbitrage, net present value, efficient markets, agency theory, options, and the trade-off between risk and return, and use them to explain corporate finance with a balance of theory and application. The well-respected author team is known for their clear, accessible presentation of material that makes this text an excellent teaching tool. Brad Jordan, known

for his successful work on the RWJ Fundamentals and Essentials books, contributed to this edition. His influence will be seen particularly in the writing style with smoother coverage of topics, and the increased quality in the problem material.

10. The Economic Consequences of the Peace

John Maynard Keynes (Author)



The Economic Consequences of the Peace was written and published by John Maynard Keynes. After World War I, Keynes attended the Versailles Conference as a delegate of the British Treasury and argued for a much more generous peace. It was a best seller throughout the world and was critical in establishing a general opinion that the Versailles Treaty was a “Carthaginian peace.” It helped to consolidate American public opinion against the treaty and involvement in the League of Nations. The perception by much of the British public that Germany had been treated unfairly in turn was a crucial factor in public support for appeasement. The success of the book established Keynes’ reputation as a leading economist. When Keynes was a key player in establishing the Bretton Woods system in 1944, he remembered the lessons from Versailles as well as the Great Depression. The Marshall Plan after Second World War is a similar system to that proposed by Keynes in The Economic Consequences of the Peace. Wilder Publications is a green publisher. All of our books are printed to order. This reduces waste and helps us keep prices low while greatly reducing our impact on the environment.

APPENDIX C

Book Review on the Category of Non-Fiction

Sub-Category: Crime

1. Criminals of the Bible: Twenty-Five Case Studies of Biblical Crimes and Outlaws

Mark Jones (Author)

Mark Jones' *Criminals of the Bible* is especially timely. In 25 brief but engaging chapters, Jones, a criminal justice professor, examines biblical heroes and villains from the standpoint of current laws. Joseph's brothers, while probably not breaking any laws in their own age when they sold Joseph to passing Midianites, would be guilty of human trafficking today. Citing UN and U.S. State Department documents, Jones gives an overview of modern-day slavery and case studies of three victims. Each chapter ends with a "Lesson for Today" that includes the author's reflections on divine justice.

While Jones certainly covers traditional crimes like murder and prostitution, he also devotes considerable space to the kinds of offenses that have dominated the headlines since September 11, 2001: terrorism, genocide, treason and sedition.

Jones does not make the mistake of railing against the evils of empire or explicitly denouncing capital punishment. Instead, he uses the trained educator's approach of asking probing questions, inviting us to examine our own views, and taking a fresh look at the Bible.

2. The Mythology of Crime and Criminal Justice

Victor E. Kappeler and Gary W. Potter (Author)

Now in its fourth edition, this widely used and superior alternative to traditional criminal justice books continues both effectively and clearly to debunk myths cited in the popular literature regarding the problems of criminality in the U.S. It serves as a solid foundation for readers to probe beneath popular notions of crime, criminals, and crime control. Each well-written chapter provides a distinct avenue for exploring misconceptions about specific crimes or particular aspects of the system. Kappeler and Potter's provocative examination of the realities of crime and justice is a must read for anyone serious about crime, criminal justice, or criminology. Not-for-sale instructor resource material available to college and university faculty only; contact publisher directly.

3. Crime and Punishment in America

Elliott Currie (Author)

The current nationwide drop in violent crime coupled with a continuing economic boom gives us the money and the breathing room to make choices about how we will approach crime in the next century, according to Currie (*Reckoning: Drugs, the Cities, and the American Future*). In this sobering report, he argues that we will eventually see higher violent- crime rates if we do not put greater resources into antipoverty programs instead of into continued prison

building, which he sees as being, at best, a failed strategy tainted by racial bias. Currie, who teaches at Berkeley's Legal Studies program, backs up chapters on "Prison Myths" and his proposed alternatives with a wealth of studies and statistics. So much factual information is set forth from so many different sources, in fact, that the book seems muddled at times. Currie wants to use four cost-effective social programs he is certain will help achieve a sustainable, long-term lowering of crime rates. They include preventing child neglect and abuse; early intervening for at-risk youth; keeping vulnerable adolescents in school job-training programs; and investing time and money in adolescents who are already committing crimes. Although Currie makes a convincing case for his priorities, his book reads more like an academic treatise than an attempt to make his recommended social programs which look to be a tough sell in these conservative times anecdotally accessible.

4. Base Instincts: What Makes Killers Kill?

Jonathan H. Pincus (Author)

Pincus explores the biological, psychological and social influences at work within the minds of contemporary murderers in this collection of case studies. Chairman emeritus of Georgetown University's Department of Neurology, he notes that although he spent years as a "regular" neurologist studying violent criminals, his prejudices (and those of his colleagues) colored his study of criminal cognition and behavior. His longtime collaborator, Dr. Dorothy Lewis, helped him develop a new theory: "It is the interaction of

childhood abuse with neurologic disturbances and psychiatric illnesses that explains murder.” He presents several cases from the approximately 150 murderers he has examined, detailing the subtle interrelations between these three elements, which often go unnoticed because of violent individuals’ denial of their own past victimization. Pincus delves into how the disparate group of killers arrived at a similar condition of extreme paranoia and instability. In each case, he depicts upbringings devoid of love and nurturing, which disposed these individuals toward violence. He concludes by discussing options for prevention and treatment, acknowledging that “tough on crime” measures receive support over more complex intervention proposals, like Hawaii’s Healthy Start program and similar efforts in other areas, which target at-risk families with the goal of “parenting the parents” and have produced surprising decreases in reported abuse and neglect. This is an excellent book for all those concerned with addressing the root causes of violence and one that should be read by those who favor punishment over prevention.

5. A Crime So Monstrous: Face-to-Face with Modern-Day Slavery

E. Benjamin Skinner (Author)

Today there are more slaves than at any time in history, according to journalist Skinner’s report on current and former slaves and slave dealers. Skinner’s travelogue-cum-indictment focuses most sharply on Haiti, Sudan, Romania and India, and is interspersed with a detailed account of the work of John Miller, director of the State Department Office to Monitor and Combat

Trafficking in Persons, or America's antislavery czar. Skinner reiterates that sexual trafficking is only one component of slavery, but devotes the bulk of this book (when it is not following Miller's State Department career) to this issue. The text teeters toward the travelogue, taking the reader to Dubai's most notorious brothel and Skinner's adventures in pos[ing] as a client to talk to women. . . [or] as an arms dealer to talk to traffickers. Nevertheless, Skinner's story merits reading, and not just because the cause is noble and the detail often fascinating, such as the moral complications of Christian Solidarity International's redemption or purchase of 85,000 slaves' freedom. Skinner's account of the internal workings of the State Department and the deep links to faith-based antislavery groups and their special interests is seriously newsworthy and, at times, moving.

6. The Slave Next Door: Human Trafficking and Slavery in America Today

Kevin Bales, Ron Soodalter (Author)

Although most people imagine widespread enslavement only in the historical past, human trafficking continues to exist today in myriad forms around the world. In this informative call to action, Bales (*Disposable People*), sociologist and president of Free the Slaves, and Soodalter (*Hanging Captain Gordon*), a historian, document routine coercive slave labor in domestic service, prostitution, farm labor, factories, light industry, prisons and mining operations. While many sensational cases have been well publicized, the authors

demonstrate that slavery exists in mundane and unexpected forms. Their case studies begin in an American suburb and traverse the globe to urban China and rural Ghana, returning to Los Angeles, Calif., and East Orange, N.J., just a few of 100-plus documented cases in the U.S. The second half of the book focuses on causes and solutions, with a helpful emphasis on how ordinary individuals can recognize and report coercive situations, creating a humane and helpful primer on how to sever the links that create and hide human bondage.

7. Killer Among Us: Public Reactions to Serial Murder

Joseph C. Fisher (Author)

How does a killing by a serial killer affect the community? Fisher (Ph.D., Tufts Univ.) ponders that question here, using as examples the cases of killers Richard Valenti, Alberto DeSalvo, John Norman Collins, David Berkowitz, Wayne Williams, Jeffrey Dahmer, and Jack the Ripper. He concludes that “a community will attempt to contain the threat by attributing it to an outsider or someone from another part of society, or by ultimately finding the victims themselves responsible for their own misfortune.” In the Williams case, the black community had a hard time accepting him as the serial killer because he was one of their own; the fact that he was tried by a black judge and a predominantly black jury did not ease their feelings. Academic libraries will want to purchase this straightforward, well-researched book; larger public libraries with a strong crime section may also want to consider.

8. The Criminalization of Mental Illness: Crisis and Opportunity for the Justice System

Risdon Slate, W. Wesley Johnson (Author)

For a myriad of reasons the criminal justice system has become the de facto mental health system, with the three largest inpatient psychiatric institutions in America being jails--not hospitals. This book explores how and why this is the case. Sensationalized cases often drive criminal justice policies that can sometimes be impulsively enacted and misguided. While there is a chapter that examines the insanity defense and competency, the primary focus of the book is on the bulk of cases that clog the criminal justice system with persons with mental illnesses (pwmi). Criminal justice practitioners are often ill-equipped for dealing with pwmi in crises, and this may even result in the emergence of mental disabilities for criminal justice professionals. However, via application of therapeutic jurisprudence principles some agencies are better preparing their employees for such encounters and attempting to stop the inhumane and costly recycling of pwmi through the criminal justice system. Coverage runs the gamut from specialized law enforcement responses, to mental health courts, to jails and prisons, to discharge planning, diversion, re-entry, and outpatient commitment. Also, criminal justice practitioners in their own words provide insight into and examples of the interface between the mental health and criminal justice systems. Throughout the book the balance between maintaining public safety and preserving civil liberties is considered as the state's police power and *parens patriae* roles are examined. Lastly,

collaborative approaches for influencing and informing policies that are often driven by crises are discussed.

9. Crime, Punishment, and Mental Illness: Law and the Behavioral Sciences in Conflict (Critical Issues in Crime and Society)

Patricia E. Erickson (Author)

Hundreds of thousands of the inmates who populate the nation's jails and prison systems today are identified as mentally ill. Many experts point to the deinstitutionalization of mental hospitals in the 1960s, which led to more patients living on their own, as the reason for this high rate of incarceration. But this explanation does not justify why our society has chosen to treat these people with punitive measures.

In *Crime, Punishment, and Mental Illness*, Patricia E. Erickson and Steven K. Erickson explore how societal beliefs about free will and moral responsibility have shaped current policies and they identify the differences among the goals, ethos, and actions of the legal and health care systems. Drawing on high-profile cases, the authors provide a critical analysis of topics, including legal standards for competency, insanity versus mental illness, sex offenders, psychologically disturbed juveniles, the injury and death rates of mentally ill prisoners due to the inappropriate use of force, the high level of suicide, and the release of mentally ill individuals from jails and prisons who have received little or no treatment.

10. Crazy in America: The Hidden Tragedy of

Our Criminalized Mentally Ill

Mary Beth Pfeiffer (Author)

Investigative reporter Pfeiffer takes a critical look at the lack of treatment for the mentally ill that often lands them in prison, where their behavior is misinterpreted and they are vulnerable to abuse by other prisoners. Profiling six such people, Pfeiffer examines the circumstances that led to their incarceration, the inadequacy of plans upon their release, and the strains on their families. Among her subjects is Shayne, a schizophrenic who has been institutionalized since the age of 14 for mental illness and drug addiction and was jailed for a time for stabbing the local sheriff; she eventually blinds herself by plucking out her eyes. Luke, who suffers bipolar disorder, lands in a Texas prison after his behavior escalates into violence and drug abuse. Pfeiffer intersperses her reports of the facts of her subjects' lives with communications from them to their families, highlighting the growing confusion and pleas for help. Pfeiffer puts her subjects in the broader context of the nation's woeful lack of concern for treating the mentally ill.

APPENDIX D

Book Review on the Category of Non-Fiction

Sub-Category: Religion

1. The Essential: Gilbert K. Chesterton Vol. I

Gilbert K. Chesterton (Author)

Here are G. K. Chesterton's most influential non-fiction books collected here in one binding. In *Orthodoxy*, Gilbert K. Chesterton explains how and why he came to believe in Christianity and more specifically the Catholic Church's brand of orthodoxy. In the book, Chesterton takes the spiritually curious reader on an intellectual quest. While looking for the meaning of life, he finds truth that uniquely fulfills human needs. This is the truth revealed in Christianity. Chesterton likens this discovery to a man setting off from the south coast of England, journeying for many days, only to arrive at Brighton, the point he originally left from. Such a man, he proposes, would see the wondrous place he grew up in with newly appreciative eyes. This is a common theme in Chesterton's works, and one which he gave fictional embodiment to in *Manalive*. A truly lively and enlightening book! In *What's Wrong With The World* Chesterton rightly points out that what people see as "wrong with the world" are only the symptoms of a deeper problem. He shows that our governments, be they capitalistic or socialistic, also fail to see the deeper problem.

With a keen wit and lively prose he cuts directly to the true problems that society must deal with and his solutions feel utterly correct. In *Heretics*, Gilbert K. Chesterton rails against what he sees as wrong with society.

He points out how society has gone astray and how life and spiritually could be brought back into focus.

2. Jesus of Nazareth: Holy Week: From the Entrance Into Jerusalem To The Resurrection

Pope Benedict XVI (Author)



For Christians, Jesus of Nazareth is the Son of God, who died for the sins of the world, and who rose from the dead in triumph over sin and death. For non-Christians, he is almost anything else-myth, a political revolutionary, a prophet whose teaching was misunderstood or distorted by his followers.

Jesus of Nazareth is the Son of God, and no myth, revolutionary, or misunderstood prophet, insists Benedict XVI. He thinks that the best of historical scholarship, while it can't "prove" Jesus is the Son of God, certainly doesn't disprove it. Indeed, Benedict maintains that the evidence, fairly considered, brings us face-to-face with the challenge of Jesus-a real man who taught and acted in ways that were tantamount to claims of divine authority, claims not easily dismissed as lunacy or deception.

Benedict XVI presents this challenge in his new book, *Jesus of Nazareth: Holy Week: From the Entrance into Jerusalem to the Resurrection*, the sequel volume to *Jesus of Nazareth: From the Baptism in the Jordan to the Transfiguration*.

Why was Jesus rejected by the religious leaders of his day? Who was responsible for his death?

Did he establish a Church to carry on his work? How did Jesus view his suffering and death?

How should we? And, most importantly, did Jesus really rise from the dead and what does his resurrection mean?

The story of Jesus raises these and other crucial questions.

Benedict brings to his study the vast learning of a brilliant scholar, the passionate searching of a great mind, and the deep compassion of a pastor's heart. In the end, he dares readers to grapple with the meaning of Jesus' life, teaching, death, and resurrection. *Jesus of Nazareth: Holy Week: From the Entrance into Jerusalem to the Resurrection* challenges both believers and unbelievers to decide who Jesus of Nazareth is and what he means for them.

3. Holy Bible (NIV)

Zondervan (Author)

The Bible is the bestselling book in history, and the New International Version (NIV) Bible is the bestselling version year after year. This bestselling modern English Bible has sold more than 400 million copies since its first full publication in 1978. It is also the bestselling modern English Bible eBook, and now it's completely redesigned for an intuitive user experience. The font is crisp and clear, and readability is great on both E-Ink screens and color screens. With quicker page turns and a numbered footnoting system that allows you to easily jump from Bible text to footnote and back again, this NIV eBook is faster and more robust than ever before. And with a new 'How to Use This Bible' page included, navigating the Bible has never been easier. Read the Bible on your device just as if you were reading a physical book. Make the NIV eBook one

of your favorite reads today. NIV 2011 The New International Version (NIV) translation of the Bible is the world's most popular modern English Bible--easy to understand, yet rich with the detail found in the original languages.

4. Pagan and Christian Creeds: Their Origin and Meaning

Edward Carpenter (Author)

This book provides a systematic and logical approach to the origins of religion. Many common themes are shown to exist between Christianity and earlier Pagan religions that go back in time centuries before Christianity itself. Carpenter makes an effort to get to the very roots of religion in this book. He's trying to uncover where our religious concepts first originated, and reveals an evolutionary sequence which starts with phallic and procreative cults as having the earliest known impact. Following this came a cult of magic, much along the lines of Frazer's *The Golden Bough*, where spirits and earth divinities were worshipped. Lastly, came the belief in actual God-figures that came down from heaven. A big part of early religion also concerns the consciousness of man, which Carpenter divides into three stages. Simple consciousness was when man's mind was instinctive and similar to that of the animal, followed by self consciousness which is generally found today. Lastly, and most importantly, Carpenter mentions a third type of consciousness found in many of the rites and beliefs of ancient religions, but which we seem to have lost today. He considers this form of consciousness "unnamed," but provides an Appendix on the doctrines of the Upanishads which, he says, at least gives us an idea concerning

this third stage of consciousness and the mental attitude required. Only here, in this higher stage that we've been striving for, are the real facts of the inner life found.

5. Ignatius Catholic Study Bible: Book of Genesis

Scott Hahn (Author), Curtis Mitch (Author)

Based on the Revised Standard Version Second Catholic Edition, this 14th volume in the popular Bible study series leads readers through a penetrating study of the Book of Genesis using the biblical text itself and the Church's own guidelines for understanding the Bible. Ample notes accompany each page, providing fresh insights and commentary by renowned Bible scholars Scott Hahn and Curtis Mitch, as well as time-tested interpretations from the Fathers of the Church. They provide rich historical, cultural, geographical or theological information pertinent to the Old Testament book information that bridges the distance between the biblical world and our own. The Ignatius Study Bible also includes Topical Essays, Word Studies and Charts. The Topical Essays explore the major themes of Genesis, often relating them to the teachings of the Church. The Word Studies explain the background to important Bible terms, while the Charts summarize crucial biblical information "at a glance". Each page includes an easy-to-use Cross-Reference Section. Study Questions are provided for each chapter that can deepen your personal study of God's Word. There is also an introductory essay covering questions of authorship, date, destination, structure and themes. Also included is an outline of Genesis as well as several maps.

6. Orthodoxy

G. K. Chesterton (Author)

G.K. Chesterton's *Orthodoxy: The Romance of Faith* is, as he called it, a "slovenly autobiography," then we need more slobs in the world. This quirky, slender book describes how Chesterton came to view orthodox Catholic Christianity as the way to satisfy his personal emotional needs, in a way that would also allow him to live happily in society. Chesterton argues that people in western society need a life of "practical romance, the combination of something that is strange with something that is secure. We need so to view the world as to combine an idea of wonder and an idea of welcome." Drawing on such figures as Fra Angelico, George Bernard Shaw, and St. Paul to make his points, Chesterton argues that submission to ecclesiastical authority is the way to achieve a good and balanced life. The whole book is written in a style that is as majestic and down-to-earth as C.S. Lewis at his best. The final chapter, called "Authority and the Adventurer," is especially persuasive. It's hard to imagine a reader who will not close the book believing, at least for the moment, that the Church will make you free.

7. Awakening the Buddha within: Tibetan Wisdom for the Western World

Lama Surya Das (Author)

If you dropped the Buddha into a modern metropolis, would he come off sounding like a 16th-century morality play or more like a drive-time disc jockey? Lama Surya Das doesn't spin platters for a living, but he does have a hip delivery that belies his years of sheltered training in Buddhist monasteries. In *Awakening the Buddha Within*, he borrows a time-tested bestseller format for a 2,500-year-old tradition that comes off as anything but ancient. With the "Five T's of Concentration," the question of "need or greed," and the story of the monk who bares his backside to prove a point, Surya Das invokes a path of wisdom that is as accessible and down-to-earth as a worn pair of loafers. It's not an easy path--it demands thought, effort, and discipline. But Surya Das is there for you, lighting the way to wisdom training, coaxing you into ethics training, and laying out step by step the path of meditation training. And if that's not enough to get you to live in the now, consider these words of the enlightened lama: "You must be present to win."

8. The Heart of the Buddha's Teaching

Thich Nhat Hanh (Author)

What should we think when on the one hand Buddhism tells us that life is suffering and on the other we are told to enjoy life's every moment? Loved around the world for his simple, straightforward explanations of Buddhism,

Thich Nhat Hanh has finally turned his hand to the very core of Buddhism and conundrums such as this. In the traditional way, Thich Nhat Hanh takes up the core teachings one by one--the Four Noble Truths, the Noble Eightfold Path, the Twelve Links of Interdependent Co-Arising--but his approach is as fresh as a soft breeze through a plum orchard. For illustration, he dips into the vast stores of Buddhist literature right alongside contemporary anecdotes, pointing out subtleties that can get glossed over in other popular introductions. He also includes three short but key sutras, essential source teachings from which all Buddhism flows. Studying the basics of Buddhism under Zen master Thich Nhat Hanh is like learning basketball from Michael Jordan.

9. Peace Is Every Step: The Path of Mindfulness in Everyday Life

Thich Nhat Hanh (Author)

Thich Nhat Hanh's writing is deceptive in its subtlety. He'll go on and on with stories about tree-hugging or metaphors involving raw potatoes; he'll tell you how to eat mindfully, even how to breathe and walk; he'll suggest looking closely at a flower and to see the sun as your heart. As the Zen teacher Richard Baker commented, however, Nhat Hanh is "a cross between a cloud, a snail, and piece of heavy machinery." Sooner or later, it begins to sink in that Nhat Hanh is conveying a depth of psychology and a world outlook that require nothing less than a complete paradigm shift. Through his cute stories and compassionate admonitions, he gradually builds up to his philosophy of interbeing, the notion that none of us is separately, but rather that we inter-are.

The ramifications are explosive. How can we mindlessly and selfishly pursue our individual ends, when we are inextricably bound up with everyone and everything else? We see an enemy not as focus of anger but as a human with a complex history, who could be us if we had the same history. Suffice it to say, that after reading *Peace Is Every Step*, you'll never look at a plastic bag the same way again, and you may even develop a penchant for hugging trees.

10. Siddhartha

Hermann Hesse (Author)

In the shade of a banyan tree, a grizzled ferryman sits listening to the river. Some say he's a sage. He was once a wandering shramana and, briefly, like thousands of others, he followed Gotama the Buddha, enraptured by his sermons. But this man, Siddhartha, was not a follower of any but his own soul. Born the son of a Brahmin, Siddhartha was blessed in appearance, intelligence, and charisma. In order to find meaning in life, he discarded his promising future for the life of a wandering ascetic. Still, true happiness evaded him. Then a life of pleasure and titillation merely eroded away his spiritual gains until he was just like all the other "child people," dragged around by his desires. Like Hermann Hesse's other creations of struggling young men, Siddhartha has a good dose of European angst and stubborn individualism. His final epiphany challenges both the Buddhist and the Hindu ideals of enlightenment. Neither a practitioner nor a devotee, neither meditating nor reciting, Siddhartha comes to blend in with the world, resonating with the rhythms of nature, bending

the reader's ear down to hear answers from the river. In this translation Sherab Chodzin Kohn captures the slow, spare lyricism of Siddhartha's search, putting her version on par with Hilda Rosner's standard edition.

APPENDIX E

Book Review in the Category of Fiction

Sub-Category: Comedy

1. Take the Monkeys and Run

Karen Cantwell (Author)

This fun if light novel's quippy, hilarious narrator, Barbara Marr, has so much warmth and genuine gumption, you'd certainly want her on your criminal investigative team. The spunky Virginia housewife and mother of three is almost at the end of her rope her hunky husband, Howard, has left her; it's her 45th birthday; and she's just discovered three monkeys living in the trees in front of her house. "Life was pretty sucky" as she puts it. But while investigating the curious case of these monkeys, a bit of unexpected adventure shakes things up just the right amount. In a warm-hearted, deftly observed comic-farce-meets-mobster mystery, Barbara and her friends from her quiet suburban neighborhood, Peggy and Roz, stick their noses into the business of a deserted house down the street and find themselves caught up in some off-the-wall FBI business that hits way closer to home than they could have imagined. Perhaps a bit goofy at times, this is nevertheless an outright treat: diverting, funny and fast-moving.

2. Hot Tea

Sheila Horgan (Author)

If you were within arm's reach of 30, had a few dollars in the bank, and were just a little bored, what would you do? Cara O'Flynn decided to quit her job, finds herself an entrepreneurial endeavor, and with the help of her sister

Teagan, become wildly successful. A little cliché perhaps, but sometimes it's best to take a breath and trust the plan.

The problem - Cara didn't plan for three careers in as many days, nor did she anticipate the new guys that dropped in her lap. Worse things could happen. So, of course, they did.

When you're Irish, all things, good and bad, come in threes. It's inevitable. She should have remembered not to forget that part.

Cara and Teagan bring laughter, intelligence, and family tradition to every experience they encounter. Hot Tea is the first novel in this series.

3. We Interrupt This Date

L.C. Evans (Author)

Since her divorce a year ago, Susan Caraway has gone through the motions of life. Now she is finally coming out of her shell. Just when she decides on a makeover and a new career, her family members decide she's crisis central. First there's her sister DeLorean who has come back from California with a baby, a designer dog, and no prospects for child support or a job. As soon as DeLorean settles in at Susan's home, Susan's son Christian returns from college trailing what Susan's mama refers to as "an androgynous little tart." Then there's Mama herself, a southern lady who wrote the book on bossy. A secret from Mama's past threatens to unravel her own peace. But not before Mama hurts her ankle and has to move into Susan's home with her babies two Chihuahuas with attitude. Susan would like to start her new job as a ghost tour operator.

She would like to renew her relationship with Jack Maxwell, a man from her past. But Jack isn't going to stand in line behind her needy family.

4. Chunneling Through Forty

Anne McAneny (Author)

A woman's 40th birthday comes on like a tsunami, especially when life's biggest excitement means finding a wad of fudge in a half gallon of ice cream. For Susanna O'Leary, the day prompts her to set five goals. They don't include the invention of personal jet packs or finding the cure for cancer, but for a bored mother, they might as well. As she takes a stab at each goal, she encounters hilarious and heartening complications that reap unexpected results, including an attraction to her daughter's history teacher. An unpredictable cast of characters buoys her along the way, and in the end, her goal list remains incomplete but at least attempted. She has faced the tsunami head-on and emerged on the other side ready to chunnel through the next forty years with gusto.

5. Apathy and Other Small Victories

Paul Neilan (Author)

Like many a hip young literary antihero these days, the protagonist of this hilarious if aimless debut is sunk in slacker anomie. Shane has a monotonous temp job at an insurance agency, where he is supposed to alphabetize paperwork

but instead spends his time sleeping on the toilet. After work, he is besieged by a gallery of grotesques: a vapid girlfriend who sexually brutalizes him; an absurdly macho neighbor with a leather-clad guinea pig for a sex slave; and his dentist's deaf assistant, who sings atonal karaoke, teaches him to sign obscenities and furnishes a wispy narrative thread by getting murdered. In a world both banal and assaultive, Shane can only drink, steal salt shakers and cultivate his sense of irony; "[t]here's only so much you can do," he shrugs, "and even that's not worth the trouble." Shane's malaise doesn't feel earned; job aside, there are just too many gonzo goings-on the landlord, for instance, is paying him to have sex with his wife for him to feel so listless. There's not much to Shane besides a defiant dejectedness, but from that Neilan spins many sparkling comic riffs on the tawdriness and sterility of American life.

6. A Dirty Job

Christopher Moore (Author)

It's certainly original. Even the harshest critic can't begrudge Christopher Moore his vivid imagination, satirical plots, and humor. Like a good sleight-of-hand artist, Moore builds up a huge reserve of goodwill to pull off his most demanding trick yet: laughing at death. The already-strained boundaries of his previous work (*Lamb*, an alternate history of Jesus's life; *Bloodsucking Fiends*, a vampire love story; and *The Stupidest Angel*, concerning the resurrection of Santa Claus) stretch even further to produce this tale that critics praise for its

“improbable humor” (New York Times) and courage in “embracing what we fear” (Washington Post).

7. Fluke: Or, I Know Why the Winged Whale Sings

Christopher Moore (Author)

In his entertaining adventure-in-whale-researching, *Fluke, or, I Know Why the Winged Whale Sings*, Nathan Quinn, a prominent marine biologist, has been conducting studies in Hawaii for years trying to unravel the secret of why humpback whales sing. During a typical day of data gathering, Nate believes his mind is failing: the subject whale has “Bite Me” scrawled across its tail. Events become even stranger as the self-proclaimed “action nerds,” Nate, photographer Clay, their research assistant Amy, and Kona, a white Rasta (a Jewish kid from New Jersey), encounter sabotage to their data and equipment. They also observe increasingly bizarre whale behavior, including a phone call from the whale to their wealthy sponsor to ask that Nate bring it a hot pastrami and Swiss on rye, and discover both a thriving underwater city and the secret to what happened to Amelia Earhart.

Thoughtful, irreverent, and often hilarious, Moore has crafted a tale that contains a bit of the saga of declining whale populations due to hunting and habitat destruction, as well as his over-the-top, decadent wit as applied to scientific methodology and professional jealousies. Moore notes a pasty, rival scientist “looked like Death out for his after-dinner stroll before a busy night of e-mailing heart attacks and tumors to a few million lucky winners,” and

that killer whales (which are all named Kevin), are “just four tons of doofus dressed up like a police car.” Smart, sincere, and a whale of a story, Fluke is terrific.

8. The Monkey Wrench Gang

Edward Abbey & Douglas Brinkley (Author)

Ed Abbey called *The Monkey Wrench Gang*, his 1975 novel, a “comic extravaganza.” Some readers have remarked that the book is more a comic book than a real novel, and it’s true that reading this incendiary call to protect the American wilderness requires more than a little of the old willing suspension of disbelief. The story centers on Vietnam veteran George Washington Hayduke III, who returns to the desert to find his beloved canyons and rivers threatened by industrial development. On a rafting trip down the Colorado River, Hayduke joins forces with feminist saboteur Bonnie Abbzug, wilderness guide Seldom Seen Smith, and billboard torcher Doc Sarvis, M.D., and together they wander off to wage war on the big yellow machines, on dam builders and road builders and strip miners. As they do, his characters voice Abbey’s concerns about wilderness preservation (“Hell of a place to lose a cow,” Smith thinks to himself while roaming through the canyonlands of southern Utah. “Hell of a place to lose your heart. Hell of a place. . . to lose. Period”). Moving from one improbable situation to the next, packing more adventure into the space of a few weeks than most real people do in a lifetime, the motley gang puts fear into the hearts of

their enemies, laughing all the while. It's comic, yes, and required reading for anyone who has come to love the desert. Gregory McNamee.

9. Thank You for Smoking

Christopher Buckley (Author)

Nick Naylor had been called most things since becoming chief spokesman for the Academy of Tobacco Studies, but until now no one had actually compared him to Satan. So begins the adventures of this protagonist, a shamelessly slimy yuppie and PR flack par excellence for the tobacco industry. The story, such as it is, consists of Naylor's attempts to prop up his failing corporate star by expanding his defense of the evil weed. Working the airwaves, he engineers successful, hysterical appearances on Oprah and Larry King, after which he's kidnapped by anti-tobacco terrorists who attempt to murder him by plastering his body with nicotine patches. As usual, Buckley's humor is over the top, although he doesn't exactly choose tough targets (his previous novel, *The White House Mess*, tackled the decline and fall of the Reagan/Bush dynasty). But the blatant immorality of Big Tobacco inspires some wonderfully comic vehicles, such as the delightfully morbid M.O.D. (Merchants of Death) squad, a semi-secret weekly lunch club that consists of Naylor and fellow flacks for the NRA and the alcohol industry. The silly plot sometimes gets in the way of the funny stuff, and it's far more entertaining to watch Naylor try to maintain his fiefdom and satisfy his libido amid the madcap spin control. Buckley is a smoother, funnier and more refined heir apparent to Art Buchwald's throne,

and this book cements his position as the best up-and-coming political satirist on the literary map.

10. Baby Needs a New Pair of Shoes

Lauren Baratz-Logsted (Author)

Delilah “Baby” Sampson has an obsessive-compulsive personality. It compels her to eat the same thing every day. It earns her the “Golden Squeegee” nickname at her window-washing job. And, when a chick-lit book introduces her to Jimmy Choo shoes, it leads her to gambling. It’s in her blood: her father, “Black Jack” Sampson, has won and lost several fortunes. Cheered on by her fellow shoe-worshippers, roommate Hillary Clinton (not that one) and elderly film star Elizabeth, Delilah wins nearly enough for her Choos. She also meets Billy Charisma, a professional gambler who keeps winning alongside her, and he decides to take his “talisman” to Vegas. Of course, Baby’s luck is about to turn spectacularly. Chick-lit romance author Baratz-Logsted offers a humorous, original twist on the typical singleton-in-heels story. The parade of quirky characters and situations make for happy, escapist reading.

APPENDIX F

Book Review in the Category of Fiction

Sub-category: Drama

1. Two Tears in a Bucket

Traci Bee (Author)

Betrayed by her cold, callous mother and abused by her alcoholic stepfather, eighteen-year-old Simone Woodard is kicked out of the house like a bag of trash and left to survive on her own. While struggling to create a life for herself, her beauty and innocence captivate Kevin Kennard, a handsome, hazel-eyed felon with an addiction to all things illegal. For the first time in Kevin's life, real love has him rethinking his criminal path. But the action on the streets won't take a backseat to Simone. Who will win this tug of war?

Two Tears in a Bucket is a soulful novel that reminds us how powerful and lasting the bonds of love can be, even among the harsh realities of life.

2. Altered Destiny: A Hustler's Choice

Altered Destiny: A Hustler's Choice (Author)

We meet Sasha Miller, a young girl from Brooklyn who has grown up amid drugs, crime, and violence. She manages to make a life for herself on the streets, with money, sex, respect, power, notoriety, and even love, and she feels that the choices she has made to get there are the right ones. No one can stop her or tell her otherwise. But it all comes crashing down when one of the choices she has made comes back to haunt her. While living the life of a drug dealer's girl, entering the game and scheming her way through to get what she wants, she learns that success in this game and the choices she has made do not

matter—especially when she faces Him, and He shows her how her choices have altered her destiny. Will Sasha get a second chance to make the right decisions? Or will it be too late?

3. SWAG

Monica Marie Jones (Author)

Noelle Dresden stepped out on faith and left her full-time job to pursue her passion: singing. Six months later, her singing career hasn't gone much of anywhere and neither has her relationship with her charismatic, yet sneaky boyfriend, Jonah. Although Jonah loves Noelle, he's not willing to give her the commitment and ring she so desperately wants. After Jonah uses Noelle's hopes of an engagement for his benefit, Noelle gets fed up and decides to move forward with her career. . . with or without Jonah.

Her pursuit leads her to accept an invitation to be a house guest on the popular, hit reality show, House of Swag. On the show, aspiring entertainers with the potential to take it to the next level are trained to become multifaceted mega stars. While in the house, Noelle catches the eye of the show's creator, Monroe "Paper" Chase. He uses his good looks and smooth talk to charm her, then he uses his money and power to attempt to subtract Jonah from the equation. Drama only escalates when Noelle has to deal with an envious, hating house guest who is not beyond trying to bring Noelle down to get ahead.

As Noelle rises toward super stardom, she has some difficult choices to make. What lies ahead of her looks so much better than what she has left behind. Will she work to keep the love that she and Jonah shares alive, or will she choose fame, fortune and a man who can make all of her dreams come true?

4. Whistling In the Dark

Lesley Kagen (Author)

The loss of innocence can be as dramatic as the loss of a parent or the discovery that what's perceived to be truth can actually be a big fat lie, as shown in Kagen's compassionate debut, a coming-of-age thriller set in Milwaukee during the summer of 1959. Ten-year-old Sally O'Malley fears that a child predator who has already murdered two girls, Junie Piaskowski and Sara Heinemann, will target her or her little sister, Troo, next. Sally's mom is in the hospital, while her big sister, Nell, is distracted by love and her stepdad, Hall, by the bottle, so who can save her if the killer is, as she suspects, her neighbor, David Rasmussen, a popular cop who has a photo of Junie hanging in his house. Though the mystery elements are sketchy, Kagen sharply depicts the vulnerability of children of any era. Sally, "a girl who wouldn't break a promise even if her life depended on it," makes an enchanting protagonist.



5. A Virtuous Woman

Kaye Gibbons (Author)

Oprah Book Club® Selection, October 1997: Gibbons's novel, *A Virtuous Woman*, takes place in the same hardscrabble part of the world as *Ellen Foster*. The virtuous woman is Ruby Pitt Woodrow, a woman who might have ended up like *Ellen Foster*'s mother if fate, in the shape of Jack Stokes, hadn't crossed her path. The daughter of prosperous farmers, Ruby runs off with a migrant worker who treats her badly, then abandons her far from home. When she meets Jack, a man 20 years her senior, she's working as a cleaning woman in another prosperous farmer's house. Jack is a man women don't look at even once, let alone twice; Ruby is a woman who needs someone to take care of her. Out of this unlikely union grows a quiet kind of love that is no less powerful for being unstated.

Ellen Foster and *A Virtuous Woman* share more than just location and a few characters in common. Though each is a complete novel in and of itself, taken together the two books resonate one another: *Ellen Foster* and Ruby Pitt Woodrow are both damaged people who find the kind of love they need to heal. These multilayered novels are tough-minded and resolutely unsentimental, just like their protagonists. Yet like *Ellen* and Ruby, each contains a nut of sweetness at its core that takes the bitter edge off the hard lives and hard stories Kaye Gibbons has to tell.

6. Ellen Foster

Kaye Gibbons (Author)

Kaye Gibbons is a writer who brings a short story sensibility to her novels. Rather than take advantage of the novel's longer form to paint her visions in broad, sweeping strokes, Gibbons prefers to concentrate on just one corner of the canvas and only a few colors to produce her small masterpieces. In Gibbons's case, her canvas is the American South and her colors are all the shades of gray.

In *Ellen Foster*, the title character is an 11-year-old orphan who refers to herself as "old Ellen," an appellation that is disturbingly apt. Ellen is an old woman in a child's body; her frail, unhappy mother dies, her abusive father alternately neglects her and makes advances on her, and she is shuttled from one uncaring relative's home to another before she finally takes matters into her own hands and finds herself a place to belong. There is something almost Dickensian about Ellen's tribulations; like *Oliver Twist*, *David Copperfield* or a host of other literary child heroes, Ellen is at the mercy of predatory adults, with only her own wit and courage--and the occasional kindness of others--to help her through. That she does, in fact, survive her childhood and even rise above it is the book's bittersweet victory.

7. The Help

Kathryn Stockett (Author)

In writing about such a troubled time in American history, Southern-born Stockett takes a big risk, one that paid off enormously. Critics praised Stockett's skillful depiction of the ironies and hypocrisies that defined an era, without resorting to depressing or controversial clichés. Rather, Stockett focuses on the fascinating and complex relationships between vastly different members of a household. Additionally, reviewers loved (and loathed) Stockett's three-dimensional characters and cheered and hissed their favorites to the end. Several critics questioned Stockett's decision to use a heavy dialect solely for the black characters. Overall, however, *The Help* is a compassionate, original story, as well as an excellent choice for book groups.

8. She's Come Undone

Wally Lamb (Author)

In this engaging first novel, narrator Dolores Price recounts her life story from age four to age 40. The troubled product of a stormy marriage, she is already sipping Maalox in grade school. Then her father walks out on her mother, who suffers a nervous collapse, and Dolores moves to her repressive grandmother's house in Rhode Island. By the time she reaches eighth grade, she has only one friend: a boarder who eventually rapes her. Anesthetizing herself with junk food and soap operas, Dolores becomes an obese, isolated

young woman who attempts suicide during her first semester in college and spends seven years in a mental institution. Oddly enough, this relentless parade of disasters makes for interesting reading. The author keenly evokes his protagonist's profound alienation and self-loathing, endowing Dolores with a bleak sense of humor that keeps readers rooting for her. Ironically, the book itself "comes undone" as its heroine develops self-esteem, at which point an absorbing portrait of a woman on a collision course with her problems turns into a disappointing series of clichés about love, forgiveness and Dolores's ticking biological clock. Nonetheless, this is a promising debut.

9. A Sister's Promise

Karen Lenfestey (Author)

Kate Hopper can list a million reasons why she doesn't have kids. No, more like reasons why she shouldn't have kids: genetics, a dysfunctional family, and ultimately, the fear that she wasn't cut out to be June Cleaver or Carol Brady or Claire Huxtable. TV moms always made it look so easy, but Kate knows better.

When Kate's little sister, Joely, refuses a medical treatment because it will leave her infertile, Kate is willing to say anything to save her sister's life—even promising to have a baby. Kate decides to keep her rash words a secret from her husband until she can figure out whether she really wants to be a mother. Especially since they agreed their marriage would remain childless.

A sister's promise and a wife's promise: Kate must break one. Should she risk everything she has for the unknown?

10. Every Last One

Anna Quindlen (Author)

In her latest, Quindlen (*Rise and Shine*) once again plumbs the searing emotions of ordinary people caught in tragic circumstances. Mary Beth Latham is a happily married woman entirely devoted to her three teenaged children. When her talented daughter Ruby casually announces she's breaking up with her boyfriend Kirenan, a former neighbor who's become like family, Mary Beth is slightly alarmed, but soon distracted by her son Max, who's feeling overshadowed by his extroverted, athletic twin brother Alex.

Quindlen's novel moves briskly, propelled by the small dramas of summer camp, proms, soccer games and neighbors, until the rejected Kirenan blindsides the Lathams, and the reader, with an incredible act of violence. Left with almost nothing, Mary Beth struggles to cope with loss and guilt, protect what she has left, and regain a sense of meaning. Quindlen is in classic form, with strong characters and precisely cadenced prose that builds in intensity.

APPENDIX G

Book Review in the Category of Fiction

1. Fatal Error

J. A. Jance (Author)

New York Times bestselling author J. A. Jance delivers another pulse-pounding tale of suspense where no one is safe from a . . . FATAL ERROR. Ali Reynolds begins the summer thinking her most difficult challenge will be surviving a six-week-long course as the lone forty-something female at the Arizona Police Academy not to mention taking over the 6:00 AM shift at her family's restaurant while her parents enjoy a long overdue Caribbean cruise. However, when Brenda Riley, a colleague from Ali's old news broadcasting days in California, shows up in town with an alcohol problem and an unlikely story about a missing fiancé, Ali reluctantly agrees to help.

The man posing as Brenda's fiancé is revealed to be Richard Lowensdale, a cyber-sociopath who has left a trail of broken hearts in his virtual wake. When he is viciously murdered, the women he once victimized are considered suspects. The police soon focus their investigation on Brenda, who is already known to have broken into Richard's home and computer before vanishing without a trace. Attempting to clear her friend's name, Ali is quickly drawn into a web of online intrigue that may lead to a real-world fatal error.

2. Trial by Fire

J.A. Jance (Author)

In bestseller Jance's middling fifth Ali Reynolds thriller (after *Cruel Intent*), the ex-TV journalist takes over a media-relations job at the county police department in her hometown of Sedona, Ariz., after the previous flack is sent on administrative leave for misconduct. Soon after being fitted for the mandatory Kevlar vest, Ali goes to the site of a subdivision fire that has left an unidentified woman in critical condition. All signs point to arson, but the fire's amnesia-ridden survivor is the only one who knows the truth. With the help of a hospital nurse who's also a nun, Ali mostly undercover in a red wig in the hospital's burn unit waiting room slowly pieces together the victim's identity and her relationship to the fire. That Ali is essentially cast as a stenographer, surreptitiously transcribing the conversations of those visiting the victim's room, narrows the window for heart-racing action. A desert shoot-out tacked on toward the end adds some excitement.

3. Cruel Intent

J. A. Jance (Author)

Starred Review. American Mystery Award winner Jance's (www.jajance.com) fourth entry in his Ali Reynolds series finds the ex-television journalist defending her contractor when he's accused of having murdered his wife. Ali is mercifully no longer blogging at cutlooseblog.com, a narrative

element that weighed down previous books in this series. The text is well written, engaging, and humorous, and the audio production, too, is of stellar quality, with actress Karen Ziemba giving each character a distinct personality. Other factors making this the best series offering to date are the addition of new characters and a tighter plot.

4. The Last Child

John Hart (Author)

Most critics sang the praises of Hart's third novel, a dark and violent edge-of-your-seat mystery that still manages to poignantly examine the ties between family and friends. Hart's ability to portray his characters as living, breathing individuals particularly Johnny, "an amalgam of Opie Taylor and Scout Finch with a hint of Huck Finn" (Raleigh News & Observer) and his acute assessment of human nature result in a horrifying, heartbreaking tale that steps up the suspense to agonizing levels. The sole voice of dissent, stalwart crime-reviewer Marilyn Stasio from the New York Times Book Review, faulted the writer's unoriginal characters and lackluster prose. But majority rules. Most readers will agree that *The Last Child* is "one of the best thrillers of the year".

5. A Beautiful Place to Die

Malla Nunn (Author)

Set in South Africa in 1952, Australian filmmaker Nunn's stellar debut explores a divided society through the frame of a classic murder mystery. When Det. Sgt. Emmanuel Cooper, Nunn's tortured sleuth, investigates white suspects in the fatal shooting of Afrikaner police captain Willem Pretorius, he immediately encounters resistance from the victims family. Before long, brutal investigators from the Security Branch offer a politically expedient solution. Cooper must fend off their threats as he pursues a link between the murder and an open Peeping Tom case that Pretorius had been probing. The detective finds no shortage of people who might have had a motive for killing the captain. Fans of Charles Todds Inspector Rutledge series (*A Matter of Justice*, etc.) will note some parallels, in particular Coopers' being haunted by the spirit of his old sergeant-major. Smooth prose and a deft plot make this novel a welcome addition to crime fiction set in South Africa.

6. The Missing

Tim Gautreaux (Author)

Reviewers appreciated not just the prose and the characters of *The Missing* but also how different it was from most contemporary novels. While much fiction today revels in ambiguity and irony, Gautreaux's story has an overall moral theme about justice and revenge. That's not to say it's a sermon,

however: several critics compared the book to an adventure novel. They also appreciated the book's unusual pacing that "carries us along as it branches and swells, as if inspired by the great river on which so much of this book takes place" (Washington Post). Gautreaux establishes much of Sam's backstory in the beginning and then devotes the rest of the book to Sam's time working on a steamboat and pursuing the missing girl. All of this adds up to a work that critics found moving and highly original.

7. The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest

Stieg Larsson (Author)

As the finale to Stieg Larsson's Millennium Trilogy, *The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest* is not content to merely match the adrenaline-charged pace that made international bestsellers out of *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* and *The Girl Who Played with Fire*. Instead, it roars with an explosive storyline that blows the doors off the series and announces that the very best has been saved for last. A familiar evil lies in wait for Lisbeth Salander, but this time, she must do more than confront the miscreants of her past; she must destroy them. Much to her chagrin, survival requires her to place a great deal of faith in journalist Mikael Blomkvist and trust his judgment when the stakes are highest. To reveal more of the plot would be criminal, as Larsson's mastery of the unexpected is why millions have fallen hard for his work. But rest assured that the odds are again stacked, the challenges personal, and the action fraught with neck-snapping revelations in this snarling conclusion to a thrilling triad. This

closing chapter to *The Girl's* pursuit of justice is guaranteed to leave readers both satisfied and saddened once the final page has been turned.

8. The Lincoln Lawyer

Michael Connelly (Author)

Best-selling author Michael Connelly, whose character-driven literary mysteries have earned him a wide following, breaks from the gate in the overcrowded field of legal thrillers and leaves every other contender from Grisham to Turow in the dust with this tightly plotted, brilliantly paced, impossible-to-put-down novel.

Criminal defense attorney Mickey Haller's father was a legendary lawyer whose clients included gangster Mickey Cohen (in a nice twist, Cohen's gun, given to Dad then bequeathed to his son, plays a key role in the plot). But Dad also passed on an important piece of advice that's especially relevant when Mickey takes the case of a wealthy Los Angeles realtor accused of attempted murder: "The scariest client a lawyer will ever have is an innocent client. Because if you [screw] up and he goes to prison, it'll scar you for life."

Louis Roulet, Mickey's "franchise client" (so-called because he's able and willing to pay whatever his defense costs) seems to be the one his father warned him against, as well as being a few rungs higher on the socio-economic ladder than the drug dealers, homeboys, and motorcycle thugs who comprise Mickey's regular case load. But as the holes in Roulet's story tear Mickey's theory of the case to shreds, his thoughts turn more to Jesus Menendez, a former

client convicted of a similar crime who's now languishing in San Quentin. Connelly tellingly delineates the code of legal ethics Mickey lives by: "It didn't matter. . . whether the defendant 'did it' or not. What mattered was the evidence against him the proof--and if and how it could be neutralized. My job was to bury the proof, to color the proof a shade of gray. Gray was the color of reasonable doubt." But by the time his client goes to trial, Mickey's feeling a few very reasonable doubts of his own.

While Mickey's courtroom pyrotechnics dazzle, his behind-the-scenes machinations and manipulations are even more incendiary in this taut, gripping novel, which showcases all of Connelly's literary gifts. There's not an excess sentence or padded paragraph in it--what there is, happily, is a character who, like Harry Bosch, deserves a franchise series of his own.

9. Alone

Lisa Gardner (Author)

For 300-some pages, Gardner (*The Perfect Husband*) keeps readers spellbound—not just by her plot but by the beautifully realized character of Massachusetts police sniper Bobby Dodge. He meets his match in Catherine Gagnon, who as a girl was snatched, raped and nearly murdered. Now she's the wife of erratic, rich Jimmy Gagnon and mother of perpetually ill four-year-old Nathan. When Bobby kills Jimmy during a hostage situation at the Gagnons, he does it to save Catherine and Nathan. But was it a righteous shoot, or did Catherine engineer the killing? Judge James Gagnon and his wife,

Maryanne, think Bobby murdered their son out of lust for Catherine. As other people start dying, very messily, and the DA and cops come down hard on Bobby, Gardner keeps the tension high and the pace fast. But resolution comes in what may be the clunkiest chase crafted by a pro this year: “Bobby processed everything at once. Three open doorways, three bedrooms. He ran by the first, then the second, and came sprinting into the third just in time to see Maryanne staggering back.” Ten pages later, so many characters have run into so many rooms, it’s amazing that the right person finally gets his head blown off by the right avenger. But Garner then ends with a neat postlude offering one more twist; her fans will feel requited.

10. Killer

Stephen Carpenter (Author)

For fans of Robert Parker’s smart but tough-as-nails heroes, screenwriter Stephen Carpenter introduces a new character to the mystery genre, Jack Rhodes. Jack is an author and former boxer who was on his way to literary success when his life was blown apart by the horrific suicide of his fiancée.

Devastated, Jack went on a fifteen-month alcoholic spiral into near-oblivion before eventually working past his demons to become a best-selling crime novelist. But just as Jack is finishing his fourth book about a vicious serial killer, the LAPD interrupts his quiet routine with news of what appears to be a copycat murder from his first book. There’s just one problem--the murder took place before Jack’s book was published.

Jack begins to investigate, using techniques he learned through his meticulous research with police and FBI investigators. To his horror, Jack discovers that each of the murders he has imagined are all real. . . down to the most harrowing details. And Jack is Suspect Number One.

Jack winds up on the run, a fugitive haunted by his past and hunted by the very cops and FBI agents he has learned from and befriended. Jack must use every resource he has to prevent the murder of a woman he knows will be next in his series of novels. He must piece together shattered memories from the fragments he recalls during his drunken fifteen-month blackout.

Fast-paced and utterly unpredictable, KILLER reads like a rapid-fire crime thriller, with hairpin twists and turns and edge-of-your seat psychological horror. KILLER eludes easy answers to the impossible puzzle Jack must solve, and takes the reader on a journey unlike any other.

APPENDIX H

Book Review in the Category of Fiction

Sub-Category: Romance

1. Briefly Yours

Madison Martin (Author)

In *Briefly Yours: An Erotic Romance*, Ava Parker, shy, intelligent, and much more attractive than she realizes, is a top designer in the not-so-exciting world of underwear fashion for “mature ladies”. When Ava finally gets the chance to create some sexy underwear for her flailing company’s new underwear line, she never thought she’d end up head-to-head with charming, cocky corporate analyst Justin Barrett, who proves to be her perfect muse. Ava knows he’s out of her league, and that falling for him can only lead to a broken heart. But how long can she resist, especially when the hotter the sex gets, the better her designs get?

2. The Rogue’s Return

Jo Beverley (Author)

The St. Bride men are famous for not wandering far from home, but Simon proves there is an exception to every rule. In 1812, he leaves his family’s English estate for Canada, to fight the Americans and corruption in the Canadian government. Simon is finally prepared to heed his family’s ceaseless nagging to return home when he becomes involved in a duel to defend the honor of Jane Otterburn. Simon is ultimately forced to marry Jane, and worries that she will find it difficult to fit in with the St. Brides. Just as Simon finds himself falling in love with his capable, competent new wife, both a secret from Jane’s past

and a dangerous new enemy threaten to destroy their fragile new marriage. In the latest installment in her Company of Rogues series, Beverly beautifully blends complex characters, an exquisitely sensual love story, and a refreshingly different Regency setting into one sublime romance.

3. Take Me

Bella Andre (Author)



An appetite for sensual pleasures must never be denied. . .

Lily Ellis has curves-soft, beautiful curves. The kind of voluptuous body she fears Travis Carson, the man she's always loved from afar, would never crave. But Lily is about to be proven wrong. Her adventure begins when the demure San Francisco interior decorator agrees to model a plus-size dress for her fashion designer sister. Watching this sensual beauty move down the runway, Travis can't believe it's the same Lily he's always known-and always rejected. In a whirlwind of electric attraction, Lily is soon moaning Travis's name in his bed, not just in her wild fantasies. But Lily is all too aware that she's nothing like his past lovers.

Determined to beat Travis at his own game by guarding her true feelings, Lily partners with him on a business deal that takes them all the way to Italy. In the seductive warmth of the Tuscan sun, Lily plays a game of desire with the hot-blooded Travis. Will she be burned by an all-consuming ecstasy or will Travis open his heart to the sexy, exciting, and lasting love she has to offer?

4. Tempt Me, Taste Me, Touch Me

Bella Andre (Author)

In these three erotic novellas about a trio of girlfriends experiencing all that Napa wine country has to offer-especially the men-erotica newcomer Andre (Take Me) makes sure each woman is fiercely her own, complete with convincing back stories and particular neuroses. Prim-and-proper Carrie has just turned down a calculated proposal from one of San Francisco's elite, full-figured Rose has just been dumped for a thinner woman, and sex-obsessed Vanessa is just looking for a little distraction. Scenarios that could easily have been trod with reckless sexual abandon, however, give way to sweet, sensual, empowered stories enveloped in heady romance. Andre scores with her subtle use of Napa Valley food, wine and atmosphere, making her stories that much more delicious. Unfortunately, they all follow the same structure, and it quickly becomes clear that each woman is playing for keeps, not a roll in the hay. Though her erotic possibilities are hedged in by the spicy-but-safe formula, and readers may lose interest before they can finish their second helping, Andre provides some escapist fare for sentimental genre fans.

5. First Lady

Susan Elizabeth Phillips (Author)

Take a widowed First Lady on the run, add a discredited journalist looking for a story, toss in a pair of intriguing orphaned sisters for good measure,

and you have the unlikely ingredients for another of Phillips's brilliant romantic romps, deftly combining laughter and love with real women's issues and served up with a sophisticated flair. Creative plotting adds sparkle, and entertaining, well-drawn secondary characters round out the novel, but it is the growing, healing relationship between the protagonists and how they finally form a family that touches the heartstrings and makes this contemporary romance an unforgettable read. A past master at taking a startling but just believable premise and making it work, Phillips (*Lady Be Good*) has won several RITA awards and lives in the Chicago area.

6. Match Me if You Can

Susan Elizabeth Phillips (Author)

Phillips's latest captivating romance (*Ain't She Sweet; Breathing Room*) follows a pair of reluctant lovers from their combative first acquaintance to a happily ever after. Perpetually discombobulated but adorable Annabelle Granger inherits her grandmother's matchmaking business, renames it *Perfect for You* and targets Chicago's super-rich, super-aggressive sports agent Heath Champion, better known as the Python, as her first client. Intrigued by this spunky, determined upstart, Heath who is dead set on finding the ultimate trophy wife by age 35 agrees to give Annabelle a chance despite his contract with *Portia Powers of Power Match*. Soon Annabelle is introducing him to the Windy City's most extraordinary women, none of whom seem to meet Heath's discriminating standards. Could it be because chemistry has sparked between

the matchmaker and her client? From trading barbs the two progress to exchanging kisses and more. But when Heath finally meets his should-be dream girl and Annabelle's business threatens to go belly up, they each must face their deepest feelings and make some difficult decisions in the name of love. Phillips has once again created a delightful page-turner.

7. Halfway to Heaven

Susan Wiggs (Author)

Bestselling author Susan Wiggs once again delights readers with her portrayal of unconventional women and the men who learn to love them. Abigail Cabot, the awkward, dowdy daughter of a powerful senator and sister to reigning beauty Helena, loves nothing more than stargazing. In fact, that's what she's doing when she discovers a couple in a passionate embrace in the garden. Embarrassed, Abby escapes, dropping her handkerchief in her hurry. Imagine her shock when the gentleman seducing the president's sister in plain view turns out to be freshman congressman James Calhoun. The rake's knowing winks and forward manner rile Abby like no one else ever has, not even the object of her long-standing unrequited love, Lt. Boyd Butler, the vice president's son. But nothing is as it seems in Wiggs's wonderful world. The ugly duckling turns into a swan, thanks to a fairy godmother in the form of a talented seamstress, but the prince is a surprise to everyone, including the newly transformed Abby. Meanwhile, the beautiful Helena is in love with a thoroughly

unsuitable man, their next-door neighbor, absent-minded professor Michael Rowan, the only man who doesn't think Abby's affinity for astronomy is unnatural. But it appears that no one is going to get what they wish for--or worse, maybe they will. Susan Wiggs's deft story telling keeps audiences guessing all the way to the last page and leaves us wanting more! Hopefully Helena and Michael Rowan's story isn't too far behind.

8. The Cinderella Deal

Jennifer Crusie (Author)

New York Times bestselling author Jennifer Crusie brings humor and storytelling magic to this modern-day romance of a match made anywhere but in heaven but destined for a fairy-tale ending.

Daisy Flattery is a free spirit with a soft spot for strays and a weakness for a good story. Why else would she agree to the outrageous charade offered by her buttoned-down workaholic neighbor, Linc Blaise? The history professor needs to have a fiancée in order to capture his dream job, and Daisy is game to play the role. But something funny happens on their way to the altar that changes everything. Now, with the midnight hour approaching, will Daisy lose her prince, or will opposites not only attract but live happily ever after?

9. Faking It

Jennifer Crusie (Author)

Bestseller Crusie (*Fast Women*, etc.) takes readers on another smooth ride in her latest romantic caper. At the wheel this time is fab art forger Matilda Goodnight, whose chance encounter in a closet with cute con man/thief Davy Dempsey leads to madcap mayhem and breathless romance. He's trying to steal back the money he filched from Clea Lewis, ex-girlfriend (and possible husband killer), who had taken it right back. Tilda just wants her last "Scarlet" painting, which Clea has bought to impress Mason Phipps, her rich art-obsessed beau. It's the last of six forgeries Tilda did for Tony, her now deceased gallery-owner dad, and Tilda is determined to preserve her newly squeaky-clean reputation. Confused yet? It gets wackier, because the whole Goodnight clan and supporting cast are as enormously engaging as the loopy plot. There's Tilda's mother, Gwen; her sister, Eve/Louise, a split-personality teacher/diva; her gay ex-brother-in-law, Andrew; and her precocious teenage niece, Nadine. Add a host of shady characters and would-be hitmen, and the breezy plot thickens and puffs up like the light airy doughnuts all Goodnight women are attracted to but eventually forsake for muffins: "Muffins are for the long haul and they always taste good. They don't have that oh-my-God-I-have-to-have-that thing that the doughnuts have going for them, but you still want them the next morning." Finally, defying all odds, Crusie answers the burning questions she poses can liars and thieves fall in love, live happily ever after and stay out of jail? while confirming the dangers of dating doughnuts.

10. Just Breathe

Susan Wiggs (Author)

Bestselling author Wiggs (*Snowfall at Willow Lake*) keeps her romance reputation going with this feel-good story of a wronged woman who gets out on her own and gets going. Sarah Moon, a comic-strip writer, is happily married to Jack Daly until she comes home to find him entwined and naked with a business associate he had badmouthed to her just hours earlier. After five years of marriage, including months of infertility treatments because of Jack's cancer, infidelity is the last straw, and Sarah pack ups and leaves Chicago for her hometown of Glenmuir, Calif. Sarah uses her comic strip, *Just Breathe*, to vent her frustration and relieve her stress. The character, Shirl, is undergoing fertility treatments, getting a divorce and moving back in with her mom. (Comic strips open each section of the novel). And in Glenmuir, lo and behold, Sarah's dreams come true. She finds out she's pregnant, and begins a friendship with her high school nemesis, Will Bonner, who's now the town fire captain and a single dad whose lonely daughter reminds Sarah of herself as a young girl. Wiggs takes serious situations and weaves them into an emotionally wrought story that will have readers reaching for the Kleenex one moment and snickering out loud the next.

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