

March 2026

FICTION

Sipsworth by *Simon Van Booy*. This is a deceptively simple book about how a house mouse changes the solitary life of an elderly Englishwoman.

Tenth of December by *George Saunders*. A collection of short stories which criticize consumerism and most of modern society in a very entertaining manner.

Remarkable Creatures by *Tracy Chevalier*. This is a fictional account of early fossil hunters. The people in this novel are real, as are the events described.

The Remains of the Day by *Kazuo Ishiguro*. A quietly devastating novel about an Englishman who has dedicated himself to his career as a butler to the landed gentry. This is an old favorite which became a very successful film.

The Enclave and The Legacy by *Suzanne R. Roy*. A Maine author tells the story of one woman's struggles to be her own person by escaping the invisible walls of tradition that existed in Little Canada, the French-Canadian enclave in Lewiston.

The Memory Keeper's Daughter by *Kim Edwards*. When a doctor realizes that his daughter, one of newborn twins, has Downs Syndrome, he instructs a nurse to take the baby to a care facility, then tells his wife the baby died. This decision impacted all their lives forever.

A Guardian and a Thief by *Megha Majumdar*. The lives of two families bent on escaping the poverty and hunger of an India ravaged by the effects of climate change intersect with tragic consequences in this contemporary novel.

NONFICTION

The School That Escaped the Nazis by *Deborah Cadbury*. A progressive Jewish teacher foresees the rise of Hitler and his persecution of Jews and develops a plan to move her school, students, faculty, and staff to England.

Downeast Genius by *Earl H. Smith*. Dozens of Maine inventors are briefly profiled in this well-illustrated and interesting book.

Midcoast Maine in WWII by *Margaret Sheila Konisky*. This work discusses the roll of BIW, Bowdoin College, and the influence of business on policy decisions during the war. It describes the total participation of the population in the effort.

What Ifs? of American History. Essays by historians who speculate on how pivotal moments in history might have turned out differently.

MYSTERIES/THRILLERS

The Innocent by *David Baldacci*. First in a series. Will Robie is a US Government master assassin who doesn't take out a target, but someone else does. He goes on the run, trying to protect a teen who becomes involved and figure out what is going on and whom to trust.

Crimson Thaw by *Bruce Robert Coffin*. A Maine author gives us a new series featuring crimes to be solved in Downeast Maine.

Velma Gone Awry by *Matt Cost*. First in a new series by a Maine author. In the 1920s, a Brooklyn PI named 8 is hired to find a missing flapper. Dorothy Parker, Zelda Fitzgerald, Bugsy Siegel, and Babe Ruth appear in the story.

February 2026

FICTION

Lessons in Chemistry by *Bonnie Garmus*. In California in the 1960s, a woman fights off a sexual attack by a college department head, but she is blamed and fired. At a second school, her abilities are belittled. She eventually succeeds as a famous chef.

The Believers by *Zoe Heller*. A family of 1960s-era idealists has to confront disillusionment 40 years later.

Where the Forest Meets the River by *Shannon Bowring*. In this sequel to *The Road to Dalton*, Maine author Bowring follows the lives of residents of an Aroostook County town in the mid-1990s.

Queen Esther by *John Irving*. Esther is an orphan adopted by a well-to-do family to serve as a nanny. She is all they wanted and more. Irving delivers another complicated, zany, and ultimately happy tale.

The River Is Waiting by *Wally Lamb*. The story centers around a man and his family broken apart by the death of a child and the incarceration of the child's father. The story highlights the injustices in the penal system. Based on the author's experience working in the system.

Otherwise Engaged by *Susan Mallery*. This book is about mother/daughter relationships and the impact mothers and daughters have on each other's lives.

The Correspondent by *Virginia Evans*. 73-year-old Sybil is, and always has been, a letter writer. Her life is revealed through the letters she writes to family, friends, authors, editors, and others. The book is filled with wisdom and deep insights into the human condition.

NONFICTION

The Perfectly Imperfect Potter by *Nancy Collins*. The Brunswick author learns to follow the Japanese principle of wabi-sabi, which embraces imperfection.

The Heart of the Sea by *Nathaniel Philbrick*. Very well written and well documented story of the tragedy of the whaleship *Essex* in 1820. Vivid description of whaling life and practices and the importance of Nantucket to the industry. Winner of the National Book Award.

The Ride of Her Life by *Elizabeth Letts*. In 1950s Maine, a broke and sick woman decides to go to California on horseback. She travels with her dog and little else, giving us a captivating, almost unbelievable, heartwarming story.

My Beloved Monster: Marsha, the Half-Wild Rescue Cat Who Rescued Me by *Caleb Carr*. The famous author recounts his intensely personal relationship with his cat over two decades in his life. Note for cat lovers. Check out Cleveland Amory's books about cats, including *The Cat Who Came for Christmas*. You will learn almost all there is to know about cats.

MYSTERY

Death Is Now My Neighbor by *Colin Dexter*. One of the Inspector Morse books. The story centers on two Oxford dons – and their wives – who are fighting for a plum position. Morse reveals his first name for the first time in this tale.

January 2026

FICTION

Time of the Child by *Niall Williams*. A newborn foundling transforms a small Irish village during Advent in 1962.

The Secret of Secrets by *Dan Brown*. This is a gripping, entertaining, thought-provoking adventure with symbologist Robert Langdon and his love interest. It includes fascinating historical lore and futuristic mind research.

Irish Linen by *Andrew Greeley*. This work is set in Chicago. Desmond Doolin has gone missing in Iraq and the U.S. government denies any knowledge of his whereabouts. A woman is trying to find him. She uncovers the memoirs of the Irish ambassador to Nazi Germany. Many secrets are discovered.

The Violet Hour by *Katherine Hill*. A rheumatologist, his wife, and their Harvard-bound daughter set out on a sunset sail on San Francisco Bay. Long-festering tensions between the parents erupt. The man jumps overboard, abandoning both boat and marriage. From that point, the author explores the people and events that have shaped each character.

Half Broke Horses by *Jeannette Walls*. The author tells her grandmother's life story in the Southwest from 1901 through WWII in the first person.

SCIENCE FICTION

Do Androids Dream of Electric Sleep? by *Philip K. Dick*. This classic 1968 book inspired the movie "Blade Runner." It is set in the distant future of 2021 where life has been changed greatly by the recent World War Terminus.

NONFICTION

Hollywood: The Oral History by *Jeanine Basinger and Sam Wasson*. This book includes over 50 years of American Film Institute seminars which were presented by people both in front of and behind the camera.

Mailman by *Stephen Starring Grant*. After years of office work, a sudden job layoff on the first day of COVID leads to a job as a rural mail carrier. The author finds himself in a new way.

Benjamin Banneker and Us: Eleven Generations of an American Family by *Rachel Jamison Webster*. It is written by a white descendant of the free-born black Benjamin Banneker, renowned as a scientist, writer, inventor, and thinker. Racial interactions and suppression are described.

History Matters by *David McCullough*. This new book is a collection of essays and speeches by the famous author McCullough. It includes subjects such as Washington, Truman, Harriet Beecher Stowe, writing, and books.

MYSTERIES

The Mapping of Love and Death by *Jacqeline Winspear*. In this Maisie Dobbs mystery set in 1932, Maisie helps clients who discover that their son, listed as MIA in WWI, was actually a murder victim.

Copper River by *William Kent Krueger*. Wounded River Sheriff Cork O'Conner hides from hit men, but ends up tracking a ring of killers who prey on children.