

## **Chinn Park.**

**The Age of Innocence** by Edith Wharton.-- Wealthy New Yorkers in the 1870s have difficulties breaking free from social codes they hate.

**Ahab's Wife** by Sena Jeter Naslund. "Captain Ahab was neither my first husband nor my last....". An epic-scale, brilliant and compelling saga, inspired by a brief passage in "Moby Dick", chronicles the life of Captain Ahab's wife.

**Bookseller of Kabul** by Asne Seierstad. This is the true story of Sultan Khan, a bookseller who fights to preserve whatever he can of Kabul literary life, despite decades of warfare.

**Crescent**—by Diana Abu-Jaber. When a handsome professor of Arabic literature and Iraqi exile enters her life, single, 39-year-old Sirine finds herself falling in love and, in the process, starts questioning her identity as an Arab-American.

**Digging to America** by Anne Tyler --- Two families awaiting the arrival of their adopted infant daughters from Korea meet and their lives become intertwined. A penetrating light on the American way as seen from two perspectives, people born here and those who are struggling to fit in.

**The Dogs of Babel** by Carolyn Parkhurst. --- Paul Iverson's life changes in an instant. He returns home one day to find that his wife, Lexy, has died under strange circumstances. The only witness was their dog, Lorelei.

**The Good Earth** by Pearl S. Buck --- A classic tale of early 20<sup>th</sup> Century China, Wang Lung, a peasant, rises from poverty to become a rich landowner with the aid of his patient wife in the 1920s.

**The House on Mango Street** by Sandra Cisneros --- For Esperanza, a young girl growing up in the Hispanic quarter of Chicago, life is an endless landscape of concrete and run-down tenements, and she tries to rise above the hopelessness.

**In Cold Blood** by Truman Capote --- Masterful account of the senseless 1959 murders of four members of a farm family in Holcomb, Kansas, and the search for the killers, Richard Eugene Hickock and Perry Edward Smith.

**The Hindi-Bindi Club** by Monica Pradhan --- Three families of Indian-American women find themselves dealing with whole new world that blends the traditions of the

past with high-tech, fast-paced, modern American life, until the estranged daughter of one of the women returns to request that a marriage be arranged for her, forcing them all to deal with the experience of living between cultures.

**The Killer Angels** by Michael Shaara --- In four bloody and courageous days, two armies fought for two dreams. One dreamed of freedom, the other of a way of life. A sweeping, unforgettable, and dramatic re-creation of the battleground for America's destiny.

**The Kite Runner** by Khaled Hosseini .--- The unforgettable story of a friendship between two boys growing up in Kabul. Their intertwined lives and fates reflect the eventual tragedy of the world around them.

**The Last Full Measure** by Jeff Shaara .--- Dramatizes the confrontation between Lee and Grant. This is a portrayal of the end of the Civil War through the minds and hearts of the individuals who gave their last full measure.

**Love Walked In** by Marisa De los Santos --- Thirty-one-year-old Philadelphia cafe manager Cornelia Brown, who harbors romantic notions about golden-age Hollywood film stars, embarks on a too-good-to-be-true relationship with the debonair Martin Grace.

**The Lovely Bones** by Alice Sebold. --- Looking down from heaven, 14-year-old Susie Salmon recounts her rape and murder and watches her family as they cope with their grief and "the lovely bones" growing around her absence.

**Loving Frank** by Nancy Horan. --- Fact and fiction blend in a historical novel that chronicles the relationship between seminal architect **Frank** Lloyd Wright and Mamah Cheney, from their meeting, when they were each married to another, to the clandestine affair that shocked Chicago society.

**Nineteen Minutes** by Jodi Picoult --- A high school student commits an act of violence that forever changes the lives of all who were touched by the crime, including the judge for his case.

**The Road** by Cormac McCarthy --- Set in a futuristic, post-apocalyptic world, a father and his young son make their way through the ruins of a devastated American landscape, struggling to survive and preserve the last remnants of their own humanity.

**The Shipping News** by Annie Proulx. Set in a Newfoundland fishing town, this tells the tale of a third-rate newspaperman and the women in his life-- his elderly aunt and two young daughters-- who decide to resettle in their ancestral seaside home.

**Snow Flower and the Secret Fan** – This story of friendship, set in nineteenth-century China, follows an elderly woman and her companion as they communicate their hopes, dreams, joys, and tragedies through a unique secret language.

**Time Traveler's Wife** -- The story of Clare, a beautiful art student, and Henry, an adventuresome librarian. They met when Clare was six and Henry was thirty-six, and married when Clare was twenty-three and Henry thirty-one.

**Wicked** –Set in an Oz where a morose Wizard battles suicidal thoughts, the story of the green-skinned Elphaba, otherwise known as the Wicked Witch of the West, profiles her as an animal rights activist striving to avenge her dear sister's death.

**Wild Swans** -- "True account of three generations of Chinese women. With the intimacy of memoir and the panoramic vision of a monumental human saga, this book recounts the lives of Jung Chang, her mother, her grandmother, and of 20th-century China.