

Book List 2011

January 31 - *Mrs. Dalloway* by Virginia Woolf (296 p.)

While Clarissa Dalloway plans her dinner party, with all the accoutrements of her social class and status, Septimus Smith, emotionally damaged by World War I, draws closer to suicide.

February 28 - *Perfection* by Julie Metz (344 p.)

After the author's husband dies, she is left to raise their six-year-old daughter. Her friends clean out her husband's office, and although they tried to hide the truth from her, she discovered he had been having affairs with other women in town. Metz began digging, calling and e-mailing each woman, obsessed with finding the truth.

March 28 - *Cimarron* by Edna Ferber (388 p.)

Yancey Cravat, a pioneer newspaper editor and lawyer, settles in Osage, a muddy town thrown together overnight when the Oklahoma territory opens in 1889. Against all odds, his wife Sabra makes a success of the newspaper, which ultimately leads her to Congress. Through Sabra's eyes we see the violent frontier collide with resentful Indians, the sodbusters tame the prairie, and the sudden fortune of a lucky few.

April 25 - *Lights of Love* by Roni Denholtz (186 p.)

Nancy Gardner had carefully orchestrated plans for Hanukkah, for her holiday vacation from teaching, for her life! The last thing she wanted was for Mike Powers, her first love, to intrude on her holiday. Can Mike convince her that their love will shine as brightly as the glowing Hanukkah candles... forever?

May 23 - *The Physick Book of Deliverance Dane* by Katherine Howe (371 p.)

While cleaning out her grandmother's house near Salem, Connie discovers an old key along with a paper bearing the words Deliverance Dane. Her research uncovers that Deliverance was a local herbalist and wise woman who became a victim of the witch trials. Finding Deliverance's "physick book" of recipes becomes a priority for Connie, who hopes it will hold the key to curing her new boyfriend's mysterious ailment.

June 27 - *Things I've Been Silent About* by Azar Nafisi (336 p.)

Azar Nafisi, author of the international bestseller *Reading Lolita in Tehran*, now gives readers a stunning personal story of growing up in a family in Iran, moving memories of her life lived in thrall to a

powerful and difficult mother, against the background of Iran during a time of revolution and change.

July 25 - *The Reading Group* by Elizabeth Noble (429 p.)

What starts out as a lark of an idea, born from a glass of wine and a need to socialize, turns into a forum for five very different women who walk complicated paths--but soon discover the power and importance of friendship.

August 29 - *The Help* by Katherine Stockett (451 p.)

Three extraordinary women whose determination to start a movement of their own forever changes a town, and the way women--mothers, daughters, caregivers, friends--view one another.

September 26 - *Purgatory* by Dante (359 p.)

Follows the poet as he and the Roman poet Virgil struggle up the steep terraces of the earthly island-mountain called Purgatory, miraculously created as a result of Lucifer's storied fall. As he travels through the first seven levels--each representing one of the seven deadly sins--Dante observes the sinners who are waiting for their release into Paradise. Each echelon teaches a new lesson about human healing and growth, on earth as well as in the spiritual world.

October 31 - *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo* by Steig Larsson (590 p.)

Harriet Vanger disappeared over forty years ago, but her aged uncle continues to seek the truth. He hires Mikael Blomkvist, a crusading journalist recently trapped by a libel conviction, to investigate. Mikael is aided by the pierced and tattooed punk prodigy Lisbeth Salander. Together they tap into a vein of unfathomable iniquity and astonishing corruption.

November 28 - *A Brief History of Time* by Stephen Hawking (198 p.)

How did the universe begin? Why do we remember the past but not the future? Which came first, the chicken or the egg? Explore the exciting mysteries we've all wondered about set against the backdrop of Stephen Hawking's life story.

December 26 - *The Good Earth* by Pearl S. Buck (339 p.)

A poignant tale about the life and labors of a Chinese farmer during the sweeping reign of the country's last emperor.