

## SPECIAL ATHENÆUM BOOKSHELF

### BEST OF 2020

#### BIOGRAPHY & MEMOIRS

##### THE BEAUTY IN BREAKING

**MICHELE HARPER**

A memoir by a Philadelphia Emergency Room physician who discovered that people are broken in different ways, and notes the importance of healing. Also available as an [eBook](#). 284 p.  
*The New York Times: 100 Notable Books of 2020*

##### A PROMISED LAND

**BARACK OBAMA**

The much-anticipated memoir by the 44<sup>th</sup> president. Also available as an [eBook](#). 751 p., ill.  
*The Guardian, U.S. edition: Best Politics Books of 2020*  
*The New York Times: The 10 Best Books of 2020*  
*The Washington Post: 50 notable works of nonfiction in 2020*

#### HISTORY & POLITICS

##### THE ADDRESS BOOK

**DEIRDRE MASK**

"What street addresses reveal about identity, race, wealth, and power." 326 p., ill.  
*The Chicago Public Library: Best Books of 2020*  
*Publishers Weekly: Top 10 Books 2020*  
*Time: The 100 Must-Read Books of 2020*

##### AGENT SONYA

**BEN MACINTYRE**

The bestselling author of *The Spy and the Traitor* brings to light the story of a top Soviet spy who lived an unassuming life in an English village. Also available as an [eBook](#). 377 p., ill.  
*Library Journal: Best Social Sciences Books of 2020*

##### CASTE

**ISABEL WILKERSON**

"The origins of our discontents." Also available as an [eBook](#). 476 p.  
*The Chicago Public Library: Best Books of 2020: Top 20*  
*Library Journal: Best Social Sciences Books of 2020*  
*New York Public Library: Best Books for Adults 2020: Nonfiction*  
*The New York Times: 100 Notable Books of 2020*  
*Publishers Weekly: Top 10 Books 2020*  
*Time: The 10 Best Nonfiction Books of 2020*  
*The Washington Post: The 10 Best Books of 2020*

##### GALILEO AND THE SCIENCE DENIERS

**MARIO LIVIO**

A look at how Galileo was thwarted by science denial, a problem that is still relevant today. 286 p., ill.  
*The Washington Post: 50 notable works of nonfiction in 2020*

### ONE MIGHTY AND IRRESISTIBLE TIDE

"The epic struggle over American immigration, 1924-1965."  
*Time*: The 100 Must-Read Books of 2020  
*The Washington Post*: 50 notable works of nonfiction in 2020

**JIA LYNN YANG**  
324 p.

### THE SPLENDID AND THE VILE

"A saga of Churchill, family, and defiance during the Blitz." By the author of *The Devil in the White City* and *Dead Wake*. Also available as an [eBook](#) and audiobook.  
*The Chicago Public Library*: Best Books of 2020  
*New York Public Library*: Best Books for Adults 2020: Nonfiction  
*The New York Times*: 100 Notable Books of 2020  
*Time*: The 100 Must-Read Books of 2020  
*The Washington Post*: 50 notable works of nonfiction in 2020

**ERIK LARSON**  
585 p., ill.

### TOO MUCH AND NEVER ENOUGH

A portrait of Donald Trump by his niece, a psychologist.  
*The Guardian, U.S. edition*: Best Politics Books of 2020  
*The Washington Post*: 50 notable works of nonfiction in 2020

**MARY L. TRUMP**  
225 p.

### UNWORTHY REPUBLIC

"The dispossession of Native Americans and the road to Indian territory."  
*Publishers Weekly*: Top 10 Books 2020  
*The Washington Post*: The 10 Best Books of 2020

**CLAUDIO SANT**  
396 p., ill.

### A VERY STABLE GENIUS

"Donald J. Trump's testing of America."  
*The Washington Post*: 50 notable works of nonfiction in 2020

**PHILIP RUCKER AND CAROL LEONNIG**  
465 p.

### WAGNERISM

"Art and politics in the shadow of music."  
*The New York Times*: 100 Notable Books of 2020

**ALEX ROSS**  
769 p., ill.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### A PILGRIMAGE TO ETERNITY

"From Canterbury to Rome in search of a faith."  
*The New York Times*: 100 Notable Books of 2020

**TIMOTHY EGAN**  
367 p., ill.

### VESPER FLIGHTS

"A collection of essays about nature and humans from the bestselling author of *H is for Hawk*. Also available as an [eBook](#).  
*The Chicago Public Library*: Best Books of 2020: Top 20  
*The Guardian, U.S. edition*: Best Nature Books of 2020  
*New York Public Library*: Best Books for Adults 2020: Nonfiction  
*Time*: The 10 Best Nonfiction Books of 2020  
*The Washington Post*: The 10 Best Books of 2020

**HELEN MACDONALD**  
261 p.

## EBOOKS

To browse the Athenaeum's collection of [EBooks](#), including many Best of 2020 titles not available in print in our collection, [click here](#). Having trouble accessing EBooks? Contact Lois Reibach for support at (215) 925-2688 or [lreibach@PhilaAthenaeum.org](mailto:lreibach@PhilaAthenaeum.org)

## FICTION

### THE ABSTAINER

**IAN McGUIRE**

An Irish American joins the Fenians in 1860s Manchester in their struggle to free Ireland from British rule.

307 p.

*New York Public Library: Best Books for Adults 2020: Historical Fiction*

*Publishers Weekly: Best Books 2020: Fiction*

### ACTRESS

**ANNE ENRIGHT**

Man Booker Prize-winner Enright looks at the relationship between a famous Irish actress and her daughter, both of whom hold secrets.

264 p.

*The Chicago Public Library: Best Books of 2020*

*Time: The 100 Must-Read Books of 2020*

*The Washington Post: 50 notable works of fiction in 2020*

### APEIROGON

**COLUM McCANN**

A Palestinian man and an Israeli man, united in grief for their daughters who were killed in the conflict between the two groups, unite together to work for peace. The National Book Award-winning author of *Let the Great World Spin* was inspired by a real-life duo.

463 p.

*New York Public Library: Best Books for Adults 2020: Fiction*

*Library Journal: Best Literary Fiction of 2020*

### THE EVENING AND THE MORNING

**KEN FOLLETT**

A sweeping story set in England in the Middle Ages, this novel is a prequel to *The Pillars of the Earth*. Also available as an [eBook](#).

913 p.

*The Washington Post: 50 notable works of fiction in 2020*

### THE FORGER'S DAUGHTER

**BRADFORD MORROW**

In this sequel to *The Forgers*, literary forger Will is threatened to create a forgery of Edgar Allan Poe's Tamerlane, and relies on his daughter for assistance.

269 p.

*Publishers Weekly: Best Books 2020: Mystery/Thriller*

### THE GLASS HOTEL

**EMILY ST. JOHN MANDEL**

A fancy hotel on Vancouver Island, an international Ponzi scheme, and the disappearance of a woman from a ship are all connected in this novel.

301 p.

*The Chicago Public Library: Best Books of 2020*

*New York Public Library: Best Books for Adults 2020: Fiction*

*Time: The 100 Must-Read Books of 2020*

*The Washington Post: 50 notable works of fiction in 2020*

### INSIDE STORY

**MARTIN AMIS**

An autobiographical novel of life and love, and the author's friendship with writer Christopher Hitchens. 538 p.

*The Guardian, U.S. edition: Best Fiction of 2020*

## **JACK**

**MARILYNNE ROBINSON**

Robinson returns to the town of Gilead, Iowa for a story of star-crossed lovers. Also available as an [eBook](#).  
The Chicago Public Library: Best Books of 2020 309 p.

*The Guardian, U.S. edition: Best Fiction of 2020*

New York Public Library: Best Books for Adults 2020: Fiction

*The New York Times: 100 Notable Books of 2020*

*Time: The 100 Must-Read Books of 2020*

## **LONG BRIGHT RIVER**

**LIZ MOORE**

The story of two Philadelphia sisters, one a police officer, and the other an addict. The author is a winner of the Athenaeum Literary Award for her novel Heft. Also available as an [eBook](#). 482 p.

*New York Public Library: Best Books for Adults 2020: Crime, Mysteries & Thrillers*

## **THE LYING LIFE OF ADULTS**

**ELENA FERRANTE**

A new novel by the author of the Neapolitan Quartet. Also available as an [eBook](#). 322 p.

The Chicago Public Library: Best Books of 2020

*The Guardian, U.S. edition: Best Fiction of 2020*

New York Public Library: Best Books for Adults 2020: Fiction

*Time: The 100 Must-Read Books of 2020*

*The Washington Post: 50 notable works of fiction in 2020*

## **THE MIRROR & THE LIGHT**

**HILARY MANTEL**

The final installment in the trilogy that includes *Wolf Hall* and *Bring Up the Bodies*. Also available as an [eBook](#).

The Chicago Public Library: Best Books of 2020: Top 20 754 p.

*The Guardian, U.S. edition: Best Fiction of 2020*

*The New York Times: 100 Notable Books of 2020*

*Publishers Weekly: Best Books 2020: Fiction*

*Time: The 10 Best Fiction Books of 2020*

*The Washington Post: 50 notable works of fiction in 2020*

## **THE NIGHT WATCHMAN**

**LOUISE ERDRICH**

Award-winning author Erdrich brings to life varied characters who live in a Chippewa reservation community, including Thomas Wazhashk, a factory night watchman and Native rights advocate, inspired by the author's grandfather. Also available as an [eBook](#). 451 p.

The Chicago Public Library: Best Books of 2020

*Time: The 100 Must-Read Books of 2020*

*The Washington Post: 50 notable works of fiction in 2020*

## **THE PULL OF THE STARS**

**EMMA DONOGHUE**

This novel takes the reader into three days in the maternity ward of a hospital in Dublin during the 1918 influenza pandemic. 406 p.

The Chicago Public Library: Best Books of 2020

*The Guardian, U.S. edition: Best Fiction of 2020*

*The Washington Post: 50 notable works of fiction in 2020*

## **THE SILENCE**

**DON DeLILLO**

All technology fails in this slim volume by a National Book Award-winning author. 117 p.

*The Guardian, U.S. edition: Best Fiction of 2020*

## SUCH A FUN AGE

**KILEY REID**

This literary novel manages both humor and suspense while tackling uncomfortable questions about class and racism. When a black caregiver, Emira, is out late with a white child she is publicly accused of kidnapping. The child's mother, Alix, seeks to make things right, but it is easier said than done. This debut novel is already a *New York Times* best seller. Also available as an [eBook](#). 310 p.

*The Chicago Public Library: Best Books of 2020*

*The Guardian, U.S. edition: Best Fiction of 2020*

*Library Journal: Best Pop Fiction of 2020*

*The Washington Post: 50 notable works of fiction in 2020*

## SUMMER

**ALI SMITH**

The final volume in the author's Seasonal Quartet.

384 p.

*The Guardian, U.S. edition: Best Fiction of 2020*

## THE TUNNEL

**A. B. YEHOSHUA**

A retired engineer in Israel, who is no longer as sharp as he once was, takes an unpaid job on a road project through the desert, and finds a Palestinian family in the way of the proposed route. 324 p.

*The New York Times: 100 Notable Books of 2020*

## UNSPEAKABLE THINGS

**JESS LOUREY**

In this suspenseful novel set in 1980s Minnesota, boys are going temporarily missing, and returning changed and withdrawn. 282 p.

*Library Journal: Best Crime Fiction of 2020*

## WRITERS & LOVERS

**LILY KING**

An aspiring author finds herself drawn to two different men at the same time. Also available as an [eBook](#).

324 p.

*The Chicago Public Library: Best Books of 2020: Top 20*

*New York Public Library: Best Books for Adults 2020: Fiction*

*The New York Times: 100 Notable Books of 2020*

# DETECTIVES

## ALL THE DEVILS ARE HERE

**LOUISE PENNY**

Armand Gamache and Jean-Guy Beauvoir investigate an attack on Gamache's elderly godfather in Paris. Also available as an [eBook](#). 439 p.

*Library Journal: Best Crime Fiction of 2020*

## THE CABINETS OF BARNABY MAYNE

**ELSA HART**

In this series launch set in 1703 London, collector Sir Barnaby Mayne is murdered. Cecily Kay, who had hoped to study plant specimens in his cabinets of curiosities, instead finds herself investigating his death. From the author of the Li Du mysteries. Also available as an [eBook](#). 344 p.

*Publishers Weekly: Best Books 2020: Mystery/Thriller*

## THE SEARCHER

**TANA FRENCH**

Cal Hopper thought life in a small Irish village would be peaceful after a career with the Chicago police, but instead he finds himself investigating the case of a missing person. Also available as an [eBook](#). 451 p.

*Library Journal: Best Crime Fiction of 2020*

## **THE THURSDAY MURDER CLUB**

Friends in a retirement community meet to solve murders.

*New York Public Library: Best Books for Adults 2020: Crime, Mysteries & Thrillers*

*The Guardian, U.S. edition: Best Crime and Thrillers of 2020*

*Library Journal: Best Crime Fiction of 2020*

**RICHARD OSMAN**

355 p.

Lists:

[The Chicago Public Library: Best of the Best Books 2020](#)

[The Guardian, U.S. edition: Best Books of 2020](#)

[Library Journal: Best Books of 2020](#)

[New York Public Library: Best Books for Adults 2020](#)

[The New York Times: 100 Notable Books of 2020](#)

[Publishers Weekly: Best Books 2020](#)

[Time: The 100 Must-Read Books of 2020](#)

[The Washington Post: The 10 Best Books of 2020](#)