

2022 Choices

Wednesday, January 19 2022

The Ascent of Money: A Financial History of the World by Niall Ferguson

Niall Ferguson follows the money to tell the human story behind the evolution of finance from its origins in ancient Mesopotamia to the latest upheavals. He reveals finance as the foundation of human progress and financial history as the essential backstory behind all history. *Copies of the book will be available to pick up from December 15 to December 22. DVD copies of the award winning PBS documentary are available to reserve.*

Thursday, February 17 2022

The Hornet Flight by Ken Follett

During the third year of World War II, it's evident that Hitler is in control of the air—the Luftwaffe shoots down seemingly every plane that takes off. When a Danish teenager, Harald Olufsen, discovers new German radar, he becomes their enemy and flies an old plane with his best friend Karen to England in order to save his life—and possibly the lives of many others. Loosely based on a true story, this is a gripping novel by a master of historical fiction. *Copies of the book will be available to pick up between January 19 and January 26,*

Thursday, March 17 2022

A Rising Man by Abir Mukherjee

This historical mystery set 1919 Calcutta centers on newly arrived former Scotland Yard detective Captain Sam Wyndham. Captain Wyndham is desperately seeking a fresh start after his experiences during the Great War. Overwhelmed by the heady vibrancy of the tropical city, he is soon caught up in a murder investigation that threatens to destabilize a city already teetering on the brink of political insurgency. *Copies of the book will be available to pick up between February 16 and February 25.*

Thursday, April 21 2022

Blood And Treasure: Daniel Boone And The Fight For America's First Frontier by Bob Drury and Tom Clavin

Meet Daniel Boone, not the coonskin cap-wearing caricature of popular culture but the flesh-and-blood frontiersman and Revolutionary War hero. Boone's explorations into the forested frontier beyond the great mountains would become the stuff of legend. Fast-paced and fiery, the narrative is fueled by contemporary diaries and journals, newspaper reports, and eyewitness accounts and chronicles the conflict over America's "First Frontier." *Copies of the book will be available to pick up between March 16 and March 25.*

Thursday, May 19 2022

News of the World by Paulette Jiles

In the aftermath of the Civil War, an aging itinerant news reader agrees to transport a young captive of the Kiowa back to her people in this exquisitely rendered, morally complex, multilayered novel that explores the boundaries of family, responsibility, honor, and trust. *Copies of the book will be available to pick up between April 20 and April 27.*

Thursday, June 16 2022

The great influenza: The Story of the Deadliest Pandemic in History by John M. Barry

At the height of WWI, history's most lethal influenza virus erupted in an army camp in Kansas, moved east with American troops, then exploded, killing as many as 100 million people worldwide. It killed more people in twenty-four months than AIDS killed in twenty-four years, more in a year than the Black Death killed in a century. But this was not the Middle Ages, and 1918 marked the first collision of science and epidemic disease. Magisterial in its breadth of perspective and depth of research and now revised to reflect the growing danger of the avian flu, *The Great Influenza* is ultimately a tale of

triumph amid tragedy, which provides us with a precise and sobering model as we confront the epidemics looming on our own horizon. *Copies of the book will be available to pick up between May 16 and May 23.*

Thursday, July 21 2022

In search of a kingdom: Francis Drake, Elizabeth I, and the perilous birth of the British Empire

by Laurence Bergreen

Before he was secretly dispatched by Queen Elizabeth to circumnavigate the globe, or was called upon to save England from the Spanish Armada, Francis Drake was perhaps the most wanted—and successful—pirate ever to sail. In 1580, sailing on Elizabeth's covert orders, Drake became the first captain to circumnavigate the earth successfully. Part exploring expedition, part raiding mission, Drake's audacious around-the-world journey in the Golden Hind reached Patagonia, the Pacific Coast of present-day California and Oregon, the Spice Islands, Java, and Africa. Almost a decade later, as the devil-may-care vice admiral of the English fleet, Drake dramatically defeated the once-invincible Spanish Armada, spurring the British Empire's ascent and permanently wounding its greatest rival. *Copies of the book will be available to pick up between June 16 and June 23.*

Thursday, September 1 2022

The Alienist by Caleb Carr (498 pages)

When *The Alienist* was first published in 1994, it was a major phenomenon, spending six months on the New York Times bestseller list, receiving critical acclaim, and selling millions of copies. This modern classic continues to be a touchstone of historical suspense fiction for readers everywhere. The year is 1896. The city is New York. Newspaper reporter John Schuyler Moore is summoned by his friend Dr. Laszlo Kreizler—a psychologist, or “alienist”—to view the horribly mutilated body of an adolescent boy abandoned on the unfinished Williamsburg Bridge. From there the two embark on a revolutionary effort in criminology: creating a psychological profile of the perpetrator based on the details of his crimes. Their dangerous quest takes them into the tortured past and twisted mind of a murderer who will kill again before their hunt is over.

Copies of the book will be available to pick up between July 20 and July 27.

Thursday, September 22 2022

Capote's Women: A True Story of Love, Betrayal, and a Swan Song for an Era by Laurence Leamer (368 pages)

The complex web of relationships and scandalous true stories behind Truman Capote's never-published final novel, *Answered Prayers*—the dark secrets, tragic glamour, and Capote's ultimate betrayal of the group of female friends he called his “swans.” For years, Capote attempted to write *Answered Prayers*, what he believed would have been his magnum opus. But when he eventually published a few chapters in *Esquire*, the thinly fictionalized lives (and scandals) of his closest female confidantes were laid bare for all to see, and he was banished from their high-society world forever. Laurence Leamer re-creates the lives of these fascinating swans, their friendships with Capote and one another, and the doomed quest to write what could have been one of the greatest novels of the twentieth century. *Copies of the book will be available to pick up between August 15 and August 22.*

Thursday, October 20 2022

The Great Bridge, by David McCullough

The dramatic and enthralling story of the building of the Brooklyn Bridge. In the years around 1870, when the project was first undertaken, the concept of building an unprecedented bridge to span the East River between the great cities of Manhattan and Brooklyn required a vision and determination comparable to that which went into the building of the great cathedrals. Throughout the fourteen years of its construction, the odds against the successful completion of the bridge seemed staggering. Bodies were crushed and broken, lives lost, political empires fell, and surges of public emotion constantly threatened the project. But this is not merely the saga of an engineering miracle; it

is a sweeping narrative of the social climate of the time and of the heroes and rascals who had a hand in either constructing or exploiting the surpassing enterprise. *Copies of the book will be available to pick up between September 15 and September 22.*

Thursday, November 17 2022

The black count: Glory, Revolution, Betrayal, and the Real Count of Monte Cristo, by Tom Reiss

General Alex Dumas is a man almost unknown today, yet his story is strikingly familiar—because his son, the novelist Alexandre Dumas, used his larger-than-life feats as inspiration for such classics as *The Count of Monte Cristo* and *The Three Musketeers*. But, hidden behind General Dumas's swashbuckling adventures was an even more incredible secret: he was the son of a black slave—who rose higher in the white world than any man of his race would before our own time. Born in Saint-Domingue (now Haiti), Alex Dumas made his way to Paris, where he rose to command armies at the height of the Revolution—until he met an implacable enemy he could not defeat. *Copies of the book will be available to pick up between October 17 and October 24.*

Thursday, December 15 2022

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will be busier still. By her brother's graveside, Liesel's life is changed when she picks up a single object, partially hidden in the snow. It is *The Gravedigger's Handbook*, left behind there by accident, and it is her first act of book thievery. So begins a love affair with books and words, as Liesel, with the help of her accordion-playing foster father, learns to read. Soon she is stealing books from Nazi book-burnings, the mayor's wife's library, wherever there are books to be found. But these are dangerous times. When Liesel's foster family hides a Jew in their basement, Liesel's world is both opened up, and closed down. In superbly crafted writing that burns with intensity, award-winning author Markus Zusak has given us one of the most enduring stories of our time. *Copies of the book will be available to pick up between November 15 and November 22.*