

ADULTS

2016 YEAR OF **READING** GUIDE



Building a City of Readers

Your Year of Reading

This year, make good on your resolution to read widely, well, and often.

Library staff have put together a list of recommendations that spans the gamut of great reads for adults from **places to visit** (books that focus on setting) to **page turners** (plot-driven books) and from **people to meet** (character-driven books) to **sentences to savour** (works that feature stellar prose). Our knowledgeable staff are always available to make additional recommendations.

Whether you choose to read with a book in hand or with an ebook downloaded from our extensive catalogue, all you need to get started is your **FREE** Calgary Public Library card and our *Year of Reading Guide*. Use the Guide to plan your next read, track your progress or take notes.

By the way, the *Year of Reading Guide* is a series of one guide each for babies/toddlers/preschoolers, kids, teens, and adults—so grab as many as you'd like.

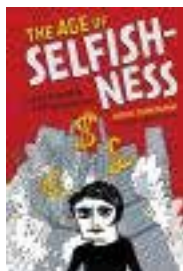
Consider giving a Guide to a family member, friend or neighbour, along with a **FREE** Calgary Public Library card. They are available at all community libraries and online at calgarylibrary.ca/card.

*There is nothing better than my chair and a book.
Unless it is my chair, a book, and a cup of coffee.*

*~ Janet Hutchinson,
Calgary Public Library Board Chair*

Building
a City of **READERS**





The Age of Selfishness by Darryl Cunningham

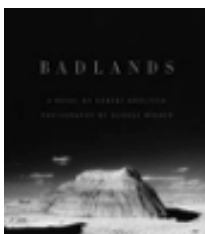
Non-fiction. 2015. With an unapologetically left-wing bias and using the graphic novel format, Cunningham delivers an inspired treatment of Ayn Rand's philosophy of Objectivism, and how her ideas contributed to the great American economic collapse.



As Chimney Sweepers Come to Dust [a Flavia De Luce Mystery]

by C. Alan Bradley 🍁

Fiction. 2015. Flavia de Luce has been packed off to boarding school—in Canada, of all places! With girls disappearing and signs of a shadowy conspiracy, she realizes she cannot trust anyone.



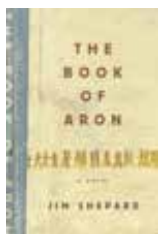
Badlands by Robert Kroetsch 🍁

Fiction. 2015. Perhaps all of Kroetsch's novels can be reprinted in beautiful hardcover editions accompanied by Weber's illuminating photography, please? A stunning work.



In 2016 I'm going to read my way from coast-to-glorious-Canadian author coast and I challenge Calgarians to read far and wide, close and near, personal and dear.

~ Lee Kvern, Fiction Writer and Calgary Public Library's 2015 Author in Residence



The Book of Aron by Jim Shepard

Fiction. 2015. Set in Poland during WW II, this breathtaking novel looks squarely into the face of unspeakable suffering and lawlessness, revealing the persistence and strength of the human spirit and the redemptive power of love.





Boundless: Tracing Land and Dream in a New Northwest Passage

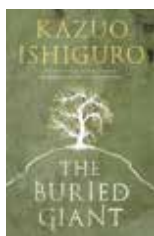
by Kathleen Winter 🍁

Non-fiction. 2014. *Boundless* not only chronicles that outward journey from Greenland to Baffin Island, but Winter's inward journey, blending travel account with memoir, history with nature writing, and a strong narrative with a keen meditative sense. An impressive book, which belongs alongside the likes of Dillard and Terry Tempest Williams.



Books are physical reminders of who we are. When a word passes across my eyes, I feel a sense of empathy generating from the author. Storytelling is one of the deepest of human creations. These thoughts cross my mind when I have the opportunity to read.

~ Craig Dykers, SnØhetta Founding Partner & New Central Library Architect



The Buried Giant by Kazuo Ishiguro

Fiction. 2015. Adrift in the foggy bog of Britain's Early Middle Ages, Ishiguro takes us deep into the mist of memory where story is the only reality on which we can rely.



Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania by Erik Larson

Non-fiction. 2015. The story of the Lusitania's sinking by a German U-boat has been told before, but Larson's engaging account features new details and the gripping immediacy for which he's famous.



Every Day is for the Thief by Teju Cole

Fiction. 2014. These are scenes of great power, where the descriptions and observations are often quite startling. Ultimately, however, this is a book about how where we live shapes who we are.





The Festival of Insignificance by Milan Kundera

Fiction. 2015. The latest (and perhaps last) novel from this master once again tackles subjects too serious to be taken seriously, using humour to drive home philosophical points.



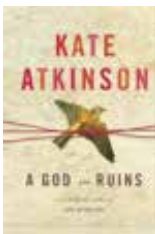
Food: A Love Story by Jim Gaffigan

Non-Fiction. 2014. Comedian Jim Gaffigan provides us with a hilarious, but (mostly) accurate history of food, while also sharing his personal relationship with the food items he most loves.



Fridays at Enrico's by Don Carpenter

Fiction. 2014. A manuscript that was nearly finished at the time of Carpenter's death in 1995, this wonderful novel about the writing life on the American West Coast during the '50s and '60s is finally in print. It's a book about how devotion to one's craft can give life meaning.



A God in Ruins by Kate Atkinson

Fiction. 2015. In Atkinson's stunning followup to her award winning *Life After Life*, *A God in Ruins* explores the loss of innocence, the fraught transition from the war to peace time, and the pain of being misunderstood, especially as we age.



H is for Hawk by Helen Macdonald

Non-fiction. 2015. In her award-winning memoir, British writer Macdonald recounts how she emerged from deep grief by acquiring and training a goshawk.





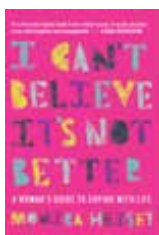
The Hand that Feeds You by A. J. Rich

Fiction. 2015. If your dog kills someone, who is to blame for that death? If your dog kills your fiancé, who turns out to have been lying to you, and is possibly a murderer himself, does it count as self-defense? These questions and more are explored in this thoroughly engaging and clever psychological thriller.



Harriet Wolf's Seventh Book of Wonders by Julianna Baggott

Fiction. 2015. Moments of heartbreak balance moments of hilarity in Baggott's ambitious portrait of a family created from equal parts secrecy and love.



I Can't Believe It's Not Better by Monica Heisey

Non-Fiction. 2015. A rollicking and insightful "how-to" guide for the modern woman, Heisey covers all manner of topics including: style, romance, and work, among others. While mostly comedic, this book is surprisingly perceptive, and women will find the situations that are addressed instantly recognizable.



If I Fall, If I Die by Michael Christie 

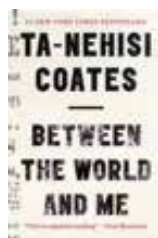
Fiction. 2015. In his second book, former pro-skater, Michael Christie describes a boy who grows up equally beloved and traumatized by an agoraphobic mother. He later finds his own kind of peace in the freedom of skateboarding.



A Little Life by Hanya Yanagihara

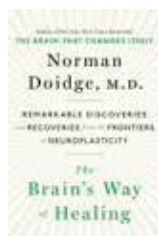
Fiction. 2015. A tremendous and dark investigation into everyday moments of beauty and sadness, *A Little Life* follows four men from the same (prestigious) graduating class through the triumphs and traumas of life.





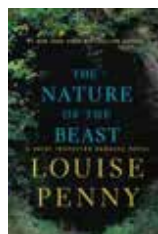
Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Non-fiction. 2015. Coates's electric letter to his teenaged son is a crucial and poetic investigation into being black in the 21st century. Part memoir, part searing critique of racism in America, *Between the World and Me* is provocative, essential reading.



The Brain's Way of Healing by Norman Doidge 🍁

Non-Fiction. 2015. Doidge describes the most important breakthrough in our understanding of the brain in 400 years: the discovery that the brain can change its own structure and function in response to mental experience.



The Nature of the Beast: A Chief Inspector Gamache Novel

by Louise Penny 🍁

Fiction. 2015. As he adjusts to his retirement in Three Pines, Gamache investigates the death of a local boy known for telling tall tales. Although #11 in this popular series, the novel can also stand alone.



Reading saved our family. We were living in a small community far from family and friends when our first child was born with significant disabilities. We read every John D. McDonald mystery and every Edgar award-winning novel. Reading is now such a part of our lives that we feel immune to anything save the demise of great writing—which will never happen."

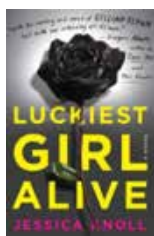
~ Bill Ptacek, CEO, Calgary Public Library



Wolf Winter by Cecilia Ekbäck 🍁

Fiction. 2015. In this stunning debut mystery, Calgary based Ekbäck, delivers a chilling Nordic noir thriller that is fast paced, masterfully written and the perfect winter read.





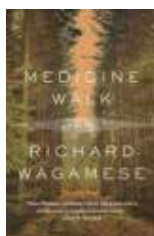
Luckiest Girl Alive by Jessica Knoll

Fiction. 2015. Ani has reinvented herself, and is now a beautiful woman with glamorous job and successful fiancé. But Ani has a secret that haunts her past—can she escape it, or will it emerge to ruin her perfect present and ideal future?



M Train by Patti Smith

Non-fiction. 2015. Beautifully written accounts of journeys taken by one of the most daring and insightful performing artist of our time.



Medicine Walk by Richard Wagamese 🍁

Fiction. 2014. An award-winning novel that tells the universal story of a father/son struggle in a fresh and utterly memorable way. Set in dramatic landscape of the BC Interior, *Medicine Walk* is about friendship, courage, and the idea that the land has within it powers of healing.



There is amazing writing going on in Canada's indigenous community. If you are looking for something new, bracing, and fresh look no further than Patti LaBoucane-Benson or Richard Wagamese.

~ Shelagh Rogers, Host of CBC's *The Next Chapter*

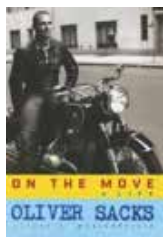


Modern Romance by Aziz Ansari

Non-Fiction. 2015. This unexpected history of dating and romance from Aziz Ansari is not only intelligent, but clever. He manages to make the topic funny and interesting while shedding light on the way that dating has changed throughout the years. (It is even better as an audiobook!)



My goal for 2016 is to maintain a blend of reading the scientific literature (so I know what's going on) and good fiction (so I know how to express it).
~ Jay Ingram, Science Broadcaster and Writer



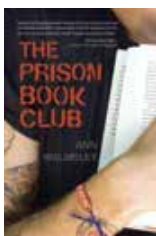
On the Move: A Life by Oliver Sacks

Non-fiction. 2015. A memoir from the man who changed the way the public thinks about the vagaries of the brain, on his passionate life in writing and medicine. Written with candor and wit, this book is one of the last great gifts from Dr. Sacks, who died of cancer in 2015.



Outline by Rachel Cusk 

Fiction. 2015. Using a beguiling and reserved narrator, Cusk does the impossible: she crafts an existential novel in the tradition of Camus and Kafka, but with a feminine perspective that feels universal.



The Prison Book Club by Ann Walmsley 

Non-fiction. 2015. An award-winning journalist, Walmsley volunteered to administer book clubs in two prisons, despite having been traumatized by a violent crime years earlier. Her unprecedented access to the inmates, as a volunteer rather than a journalist, puts both her and them in difficult situations (as does coming together to discuss great contemporary novels).



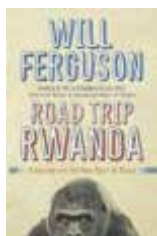
The Reason You Walk by Wab Kinew 

Non-fiction. 2015. Kinew confronts the thorny legacy of his often-distant father, an elder leader who suffered abuse as a young man at residential schools and was diagnosed with terminal cancer in 2012. This damning, reflective, and hopeful memoir is a timely triumph of personal reconciliation.





The Right to Be Cold: One Woman's Story of Protecting the Arctic, Her Culture, and the Whole Planet by Sheila Watt-Cloutier 🍁
Non-fiction. 2015. A unique memoir examining one Inuk woman's personal relationship to climate change. In her new book Nobel Peace Prize nominee Watt-Cloutier focuses on the relationships, both human and geographic, between her people and stewardship of the Arctic.



Road Trip Rwanda by Will Ferguson 🍁
Non-fiction. 2015. Funny, engaging, poignant, and at times heartbreaking, *Road Trip Rwanda* is the lively tale of two friends, the open road, and the hidden heart of a continent.



Saga: Volumes 1-5 by Brian K. Vaughan & Fiona Staples 🍁
Fiction. 2012-2015. Alana and Marko, two lovers from long-warring extraterrestrial races, along with their newborn daughter Hazel, struggle to survive amid a galactic war. Hazel occasionally narrates the series.

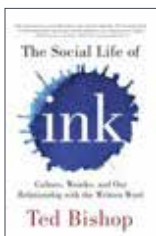


Scents and Sensibility: A Chet and Bernie Mystery by Spencer Quinn
Fiction, 2015. When the sweet old couple next door are mixed up in something shady, Chet and Bernie step up to get to the bottom of the problem.



The Seven Good Years by Etgar Keret
Non-fiction. 2015. Often hilarious, sometimes heartbreaking, and always somewhat strange scenes from modern Israel.





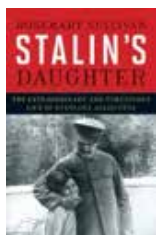
The Social Life of Ink by Ted Bishop 🍁

Non-fiction. 2014. A book about ballpoint pens shouldn't be this entertaining, but University of Alberta professor Ted Bishop hits the perfect balance of historical non-fiction and personal travelogue.



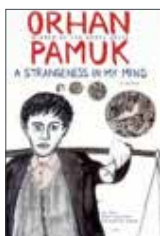
The Sicilian Wife by Caterina Edwards 🍁

Fiction. 2015. Set in the contrasting climates of Sicily and Edmonton, this literary noir is a masterful tale of family, murder, and the inescapable pull of the past.



Stalin's Daughter: The Extraordinary and Tumultuous Life of Svetlana Alliluyeva by Rosemary Sullivan 🍁

Non-fiction. 2015. Sullivan's fascinating book on Alliluyeva is a pitch-perfect biography, tracing the roots of her subject's life as the little girl in the drawing room—unaware of the terrible violence ordered by her father—all the way to her life as an American celebrity.



A Strangeness In My Mind by Orhan Pamuk

Fiction. 2015. Pamuk's second novel since winning the Nobel Prize, is another hefty door-stopper of a book, bringing us into Istanbul's underground through the eyes of a struggling street vendor.



The Swimmer by Joakim Zander

Fiction. 2015. Swedish author Joakim Zander brings us an entertaining first novel in the form of a high octane thriller. Skillfully moving between the past and the present, from Sweden to Syria to Washington and back again, Zander weaves an increasingly tight web of intrigue and suspense.



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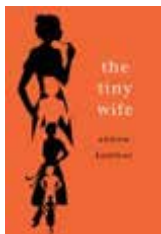
(don't even get us started about magazines)





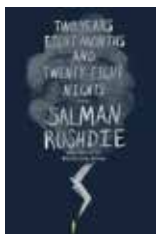
This is Happy by Camilla Gibb 🍁

Non-fiction. 2015. In this memoir, Camilla Gibb exquisitely divests herself of her own long-held myths about what her family should look like, only to discover that amid the ruins she's found a certain kind of comfort and sense of belonging.



The Tiny Wife by Andrew Kaufman 🍁

Fiction, 2014. This tiny book will leave you hungry for more Andrew Kaufman. See also: *Born Weird* and *The Waterproof Bible*.



Two Years, Eight Months, and Twenty-Eight Nights

by Salman Rushdie

Fiction. 2015. The ancient djinn wreak havoc in modern day New York City and Rushdie has no difficulty spanning 3,000 years of narrative into 290 pages.



Undermajordomo Minor by Patrick deWitt 🍁

Fiction. 2015. As with *The Sisters Brothers*, deWitt mixes genres with charm and wit. Here we have what appears to be an old-time folktale, except the message and theme are as modern and relevant as ever.



Under the Visible Life by Kim Echlin 🍁

Fiction. 2015. Kim Echlin's latest novel was overlooked by award juries, but it should not be ignored by readers. Two talented women, both of mixed race, both from difficult pasts, discover an intimate bond through their music.





Uprooted by Naomi Novik

Fiction. 2015. Agnieszka's valley is surrounded by an evil wood, its monsters kept at bay only by the Dragon, a sorcerer whose price is taking one girl to serve him every ten years. A truly excellent fantasy with roots in Slavic legend (pun intended).



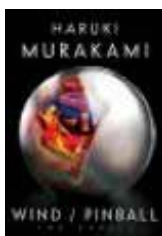
Wild Rose by Sharon Butala 🍁

Fiction. 2015. *Wild Rose*, an epic story of the Western frontier, charts Sophie's journey from under-loved child in religion-bound rural Québec to exhausted homesteader, from deserted bride and mother to independent businesswoman finding her way in a hostile and beautiful landscape.



For 2016, I will strive to read more work in translation, I challenge readers to look for books and writing from other cultures—let literature challenge your assumptions!

~ derek beaulieu, Calgary Poet Laureate 2014-2016



Wind/Pinball by Haruki Murakami

Fiction. 2015. The first two novellas by the hugely popular Japanese writer are finally widely available in English! For Murakami fans, this book really helps to show how his very idiosyncratic style has developed.



You're Never Weird on the Internet (almost) by Felicia Day.

Non-Fiction. 2015. You might recognize Felicia Day, as she is huge internet video star and created a popular web series called *The Guild*. Even if you don't know who she is though, you will delight in her clever and quirky memoir about her strange and geeky life.



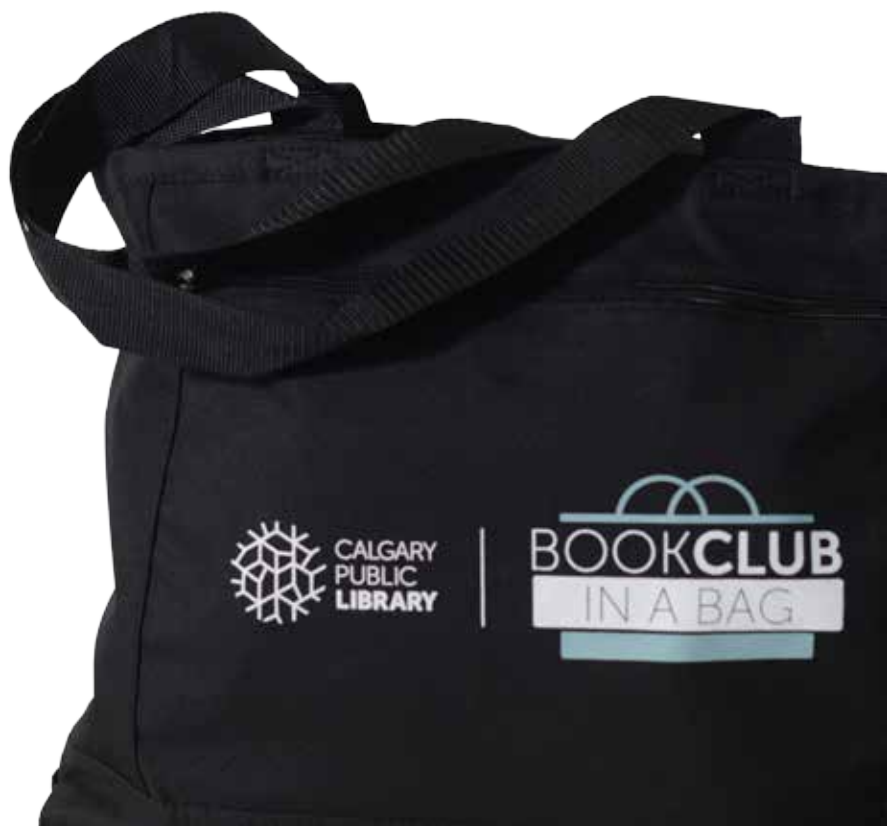
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“**W**hat a miracle it is that out of these small, flat, rigid squares of paper unfolds world after world after world, worlds that sing to you, comfort and quiet or excite you. **Books** help us understand who we are and how we are to behave. They show us what community and friendship mean; they show us how to live and die.”

- Anne Lamott, Author