

28 Summers by Elin Hilderbrand (domestic fiction)

Libby: ebook, audiobook - Physical: Regular, LP & CDbook

When Mallory Blessing's son, Link, receives deathbed instructions from his mother to call a number on a slip of paper in her desk drawer, he's not sure what to expect. But he certainly does not expect Jake McCloud to answer. It's the late spring of 2020 and Jake's wife, Ursula DeGournsey, is the frontrunner in the upcoming Presidential election. There must be a mistake, Link thinks. How do Mallory and Jake know each other?

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain (classic)

Libby: ebook, audiobook - Hoopla: ebook, audiobook - Physical: Regular, LP & CDbook

Fleeing the respectable society that wants to "civilize" him, Huck Finn shoves off with Jim on a rhapsodic raft journey down the Mississippi River. The two bind themselves to one another, becoming intimate friends and agreeing "there warn't no home like a raft, after all. Other places do seem so cramped up and smothery, but a raft don't. You feel mighty free and easy and comfortable on a raft." As Huck learns about love, responsibility, and morality, the trip becomes a metaphoric voyage through his own soul, culminating in the glorious moment when he decides to "go to hell" rather than return Jim to slavery.

The Art of Hearing Heartbeats by Jan-Philipp Sendker (mystery/love story)

Libby: ebook, audiobook - Physical: Regular, LP & CDbook

A poignant and inspirational love story set in Burma, The Art of Hearing Heartbeats spans the decades between the 1950s and the present. When a successful New York lawyer suddenly disappears without a trace, neither his wife nor his daughter Julia has any idea where he might be ... until they find a love letter he wrote decades earlier to a Burmese woman that he has never mentioned to either of them. (Follow up with A Well Tempered Heart)

Etched in Sand by Regina Calcaterra (biography)

Physical: Regular Print

Regina Calcaterra is a successful lawyer, former New York State official, and foster youth activist. Her painful early life, however, was quite different. Regina and her four siblings survived an abusive and painful childhood only to find themselves faced with the challenges of the foster-care system and intermittent homelessness in the shadows of Manhattan and the Hamptons. A true-life rags-to-riches story, Etched in Sand chronicles Regina's rising above her past, while fighting to keep her brother and three sisters together through it all.

The Home for Unwanted Girls by Joanna Goodman (historical fiction)


Libby: ebook - Physical: Regular

Told against the tumultuous political backdrop of 1950s Quebec is the story of Maggie, the daughter of a proper English family, who becomes pregnant with the child of her first love, French neighbor Gabriel. Forced to leave Gabriel and the lower-class lifestyle he can offer her, Maggie is sent away to have the baby, who is given up for adoption so that Maggie can return to the respectable life that her parents envision. While Maggie makes an ill-fated attempt to live up to her parents' wishes, her daughter, bright and inquisitive Elodie, grows up in a nearby orphanage until the law changes and all orphans are declared mental patients. Elodie endures life under the nuns' cruel regime until her release into a foreign world at 17 years old. Only after Maggie and Elodie escape from the confines of their respective institutions can the family be reunited.

**The Mammy (The Chisellers & The Granny) by Brendan O'Carroll (humor/families/Ireland)

Physical: Regular & CDbook

"Mammy" is what Irish children call their mothers and The Mammy is Agnes Browne--a widow struggling to raise seven children in a North Dublin neighborhood in the 1960s. Popular Irish comedian Brendan O'Carroll chronicles the comic misadventures of this large and lively family with raw humor and great affection. Forced to be mother, father, and referee to her battling clan, the ever-resourceful Agnes Browne occasionally finds a spare moment to trade gossip and quips with her best pal Marion Monks (alias "The Kaiser") and even finds herself pursued by the amorous Frenchman who runs the local pizza parlor. The Mammy features pitch-perfect dialogue, lightning wit, and a host of colorful characters. Earthy and exuberant, the novel brilliantly captures the brash energy and cheerful irreverence of working-class Irish life.




CASUAL & FUN

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** Recommended by more than one member.

Mercy Snow by Tiffany Baker (domestic fiction)

Physical: Regular, LP & CDbook

In the tiny town of Titan Falls, New Hampshire, the paper mill dictates a quiet, steady rhythm of life. But one day a tragic bus accident sets two families on a course toward destruction, irrevocably altering the lives of everyone in their wake. June McAllister is the wife of the local mill owner and undisputed first lady in town. But the Snow family, a group of itinerant ne'er-do-wells have brought her--and the town--nothing but grief. June will do anything to cover up a dark secret she discovers, one that threatens to upend her picture-perfect life.

The Moment of Lift by Melinda Gates (feminism/social & economic conditions)

Libby: ebook, audiobook - Physical: Regular & CDbook

Philanthropist, mother of three, and wife of one of the world's richest men, Gates delivers a thoughtful and empathetic treatise that demonstrates how empowering women can change the world and lift families from poverty. With each chapter, Gates addresses other thorny issues that hold women down: unreliable maternal and newborn healthcare lack of access to education and lack of access to contraception, child marriage, sex work, and female genital mutilation.

Mrs. Everything by Jennifer Weiner (historical fiction)

Libby: ebook, audiobook - Physical: Regular, LP & CDbook

Jo and Bethie Kaufman are as different as sisters can be. Jo is an athletic tomboy who can never be quite good enough for her mother. Bethie is adorable and perfect. As the story progresses from their childhood in a Detroit neighborhood in the 1950s to wild college days in the '60s, their roles reverse and evolve into something more complicated. In chronicling seven decades of the Jewish sisters' lives, Weiner asks big questions about how society treats women in this slyly funny, absolutely engrossing novel that is simultaneously epic and intimate.

****News of the World** by Paulette Gillette (historical fic)

Libby: ebook - Hoopla: ebook - Physical: Regular, LP & CDbook

In the aftermath of the Civil War, Captain Jefferson Kyle Kidd, an elderly widower and itinerant news reader, is offered fifty dollars to bring an orphan girl, who was kidnapped and raised by Kiowa raiders, from Wichita Falls back to her family in San Antonio.

****An Odyssey** by Daniel Mendelsohn

Physical: Regular Print

One of the students in Mendelsohn's spring undergraduate seminar on Homer's Odyssey was quite different from the others. That's because he was Mendelsohn's own father, an 81-year-old retired mathematician. The classroom discussions of Odysseus' long, wandering journey home to Ithaca led father and son to undertake a real-life, 10-day Mediterranean cruise retracing the Greek warrior's travels.

The Secret Messenger by Mandy Robotham (historical fiction) Physical: Regular

Venice, 1943: The world is at war, and Stella Jilani is leading a double life. By day she works in the lion's den as a typist for the Reich; by night, she risks her life as a messenger for the Italian resistance.... London, 2017: Years later, Luisa Belmont finds a mysterious old typewriter in her attic. Determined to find out who it belonged to, Luisa delves into the past and uncovers a story of fierce love, unimaginable sacrifice and the worst kind of betrayal.

The Stone Girl by Dirk Wittenborn (thriller)

Hoopla: audiobook - Physical: Regular Print

Deep in the Adirondack Mountains lies a speck of a town called Rangeley. There isn't much to this tiny town, but it is the gateway to the Mohawk Club, which houses an exclusive group of wealthy and powerful men with global influence and a taste for depravity. Raised in the shadows of the Mohawk Club, Evie Quimby was a teenager when she first fell victim to the Club. Seventeen years later Evie bands together with her mother and an embattled heiress, both victims of the Club, in pursuit of a heart-stopping vengeance.

The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett

Libby: ebook, audiobook - Physical: Regular, LP & CDbook

The Vignes twin sisters will always be identical. But after growing up together in a small, southern black community and running away at age sixteen, it's not just the shape of their daily lives that is different as adults. One sister lives with her black daughter in the same southern town she once tried to escape. The other secretly passes for white, and her white husband knows nothing of her past. Still, even separated by so many miles and just as many lies, the fates of the twins remain intertwined.

The Water Dancer by Ta-Nehisi Coates (historical fiction/magic realistic fantasy)

Libby: ebook, audiobook - Physical: Regular, LP & CDbook

This is a bracingly original vision of the world of slavery, written with the narrative force of a great adventure. Driven by the author's bold imagination and striking ability to bring readers deep into the interior lives of his brilliantly rendered characters, *The Water Dancer* is the story of America's oldest struggle--the struggle to tell the truth--from one of our most exciting thinkers and beautiful writers.

The Wife Upstairs by Rachel Hawkins (thriller)

Libby: ebook - Physical: Regular, LP & CDbook

Newly arrived to Birmingham, Alabama, Jane is a broke dog-walker in a gated community full of McMansions, shiny SUVs, and bored housewives. The kind of place where no one will notice if Jane lifts the discarded tchotchkes and jewelry off the side tables of her well-heeled clients. Jane meets the recently widowed, Eddie whose wife, drowned in a boating accident. Jane can't help but see an opportunity in Eddie--not only is he rich, brooding, and handsome, he could also offer her the kind of protection she's always yearned for.