

Book Club Books

Baldwin Public Library has a number of multiple copies of certain titles for private book groups. Call the Adult Services desk for details at (248) 554-4650. LP indicates that BPL owns large print copies. CD indicates available in audio on CD.

Ackerman, Diane

The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story 323 p. 2007 10 copies LP

After their zoo was bombed, Polish zookeepers Jan and Antonina Zabinski managed to save over 300 people from the Nazis by hiding refugees in the empty animal cages.

Adiga, Aravind

The White Tiger 276 p. 2008 10 copies LP

A brutal view of India's class struggles is cunningly presented in Adiga's debut about a racist, homicidal chauffeur.

Atkinson, Kate

Case Histories 310 p. 2004 10 copies LP

Cambridge is sweltering, during an unusually hot summer. Jackson Brodie, former police inspector turned private investigator, is forty-five but feels much, much older. He is at that dangerous age when men suddenly notice that they're going to die eventually, inevitably, and there isn't a damn thing they can do about it.

Atwood, Margaret

The Robber Bride 520 p. 1993 10 copies

The story of three women living in Toronto explores the paradox of woman as villain.

Austen, Jane

Sense and Sensibility 327 p. 10 copies LP

Two sisters, one practical and conventional and the other emotional and sentimental, find that only through compromise of their mutual differences can they get along.

Bender, Aimee

The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake 292 p. 2010 10 Copies LP

The wondrous Bender conjures the lush and moving story of a girl whose magical gift is really a devastating curse. "The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake" is a luminous tale--heartbreaking and funny, wise and sad.

Bloom, Amy

Away 235 p. 2007 10 copies LP

Arriving in America alone after her family is destroyed in a Russian pogrom, Lillian Leyb receives word that her daughter Sophie might still be alive and embarks on a risky odyssey that takes her from New York's Lower East Side to Siberia to find the missing girl.

Bohjalian, Chris

Skeletons at the Feast 360 p. 2008 10 copies **LP**

In January 1945, in the waning months of World War II, a small group of people begin the longest journey of their lives: an attempt to cross the remnants of the Third Reich, from the Russian front to the Rhine if necessary, to reach the British and American lines."

Brooks, Geraldine

People of the Book 368 p. 2008 10 copies **LP**

In 1996, a rare book expert is offered the job of a lifetime: analysis and conservation of a mysterious, beautifully illuminated Hebrew manuscript created in fifteenth-century Spain and recently saved from destruction during the shelling of Sarajevo's libraries

Cather, Willa

My Antonia 298 . 1918 10 copies **LP**

This is the story of an immigrant woman's life on the Nebraska plains, seen through the eyes of her childhood friend. The beautiful, free-spirited, wild-eyed girl captured Jim's imagination long ago and hunts him still.

Chevalier, Tracy

Remarkable Creatures 312 p. 2010 10 copies **LP**

A voyage of discoveries, a meeting of two remarkable women, and extraordinary time and place enrich bestselling author Tracy Chevalier's enthralling new novel. From the moment she's struck by lightning as a baby, it is clear that Mary Anning is marked for greatness. On the windswept, fossil-strewn beaches of the English coast, she learns that she has "the eye" and finds what no one else can see.

Cleave, Chris

Little Bee 266 p. 2008 10 copies **LP**

Little Bee presents a tale of a precarious friendship between an illegal Nigerian refugee and a recent widow from suburban London. The story is told from the alternating and disparate perspectives of both women.

Collins, Suzanne

The Hunger Games 374 p. 2008 10 Copies **CD**

In a far-future United States, a cruel Capitol keeps order by demanding an annual tribute for its Hunger Games, in which two contestants, a boy and a girl, are chosen by lottery from each of 12 districts to fight to the death in an event televised from an arena.

Danticat, Edwidge

The Farming of Bones 312 p. 1998 10 copies **LP**

The story is set in the Dominican Republic after the President has decided to rid the country of the many Haitians who worked in the cane fields. A young woman who works as a maid is in love with a cane worker. She decides to leave and begins a trek over the mountains to find her man.

Diaz, Junot

The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Diaz 335 p. 2007 10 copies **LP**

Things have never been easy for Oscar, a sweet but disastrously overweight ghetto nerd, a New Jersey romantic who dreams of becoming the Dominican J.R.R. Tolkien and, most of all, of finding love. But he may never get what he wants, thanks to the fuku - the ancient curse that has haunted Oscar's family for generations, dooming them to prison, torture, tragic accidents, and, above all, ill-starred love.

Didion, Joan

The Year of Magical Thinking 227 p. 2006 10 copies

Joan Didion explores an intensely personal yet universal experience: a portrait of a marriage - and a life, in good times and bad - that will speak to anyone who has ever loved a husband or wife or child.

Edwards, Kim

The Memory Keeper's Daughter 401 p. 2005 10 copies **LP**

In a blizzard Dr. David Henry delivers his own twins. His son, born first, is perfectly healthy but he immediately recognizes his daughter as having Down syndrome. He makes a split-second decision to tell his wife that the baby girl died and gives the infant to his nurse to take to an institution.

Edwards, Selden

The Little Book 398 p. 2008 10 copies **LP**

The Little Book is a breathtaking love story that spans generations, ranging from fin de siècle Vienna through the pivotal moments of the twentieth century. The Little Book is the extraordinary tale of Wheeler Burden, California-exiled heir of the famous Boston banking Burdens, philosopher, student of history, legend's son, rock idol, writer, lover of women, recluse, half-Jew, and Harvard baseball hero.

Eggers, Dave

What is the What 536 p. 2006 10 copies **CD**

This epic novel is based on the life of Valentino Achak Deng who, along with thousands of other children—the so-called Lost Boys—was forced to leave his village in Sudan at the age of seven and trek hundreds of miles by foot, pursued by militias, government bombers, and wild animals.

Eggers, Dave

Zeitoun 351 p. 2009 10 copies **CD**

Eggers (A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius) chronicles the tribulations of Syrian-born painting contractor Abdulrahman Zeitoun, who, while aiding in rescue efforts in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, was inexplicably arrested by military personnel and swept into a bureaucratic maelstrom of civil injustices.

Fitzgerald, F. Scott

Tender is the Night 315 p. 1933 10 copies

Set on the French Riviera in the late 1920s, *Tender is the Night* is the tragic romance of the young actress Rosemary Hoyt and the stylish American couple Dick and Nicole Diver.

Genova, Lisa

Still Alice 292 p. 2007 10 copies **CD**

Fifty-year-old Alice Howland, a highly respected linguistics professor, suddenly begins feeling disoriented and confused. Her diagnosis-early-onset Alzheimer's-irrevocably changes her life as well as the lives of her husband and three grown children. First-time novelist Genova holds a Ph.D. in neuroscience from Harvard University and writes an online column for the National Alzheimer's Association.

Goldberg, Myla

Bee Season 274 p. 2000 8 copies **LP**

Eliza Naumann, a seemingly unremarkable nine-year-old, expects never to fit into her gifted family: her autodidact father, Saul, absorbed in his study of Jewish mysticism; her brother, Aaron, the vessel of his father's spiritual ambitions; and her brilliant but distant lawyer-mom, Miriam. But when Eliza sweeps her school and district spelling bees in quick succession, Saul takes it as a sign that she is destined for greatness.

Goodwin, Doris Kearns

Team of Rivals 916 p. 10 copies **CD**

Acclaimed historian Doris Kearns Goodwin illuminates Lincoln's political genius in this highly original work, as the one-term congressman and prairie lawyer rises from obscurity to prevail over three gifted rivals of national reputation to become president.

Goolrick, Robert

A Reliable Wife 291 p. 2009 11 copies **LP**

Rural Wisconsin, 1909. In the bitter cold, Ralph Truitt, a successful businessman, stands alone on a train platform waiting for the woman who answered his newspaper advertisement for "a reliable wife."

Gordon, Jaimy

Lord of Misrule 294 p. 15 copies

2010 National Book Award-finalist Gordon's new novel begins and ends at a backwoods race track in early-1970s West Virginia, where horse trainer Tommy Hansel dreams up a scam.

Harris, Joanne

Five Quarters of the Orange 336 p. 2007 10 copies

When Framboise Simon returns to a small village on the banks of the Loire, the locals do not recognize her as the daughter of the infamous woman they hold responsible for a tragedy during the German occupation years ago.

Harrison, Jim

The English Major 254 p. 2008 10 copies **LP**

In Harrison's funny, spirited latest, Cliff, a 60-year-old former Michigan high school teacher, bids adieu to his inherited family farm (lost in a shady real estate deal); his wife, Vivian, of 38 years (who has been cheating on him and orchestrated the deal) and dear departed dog Lola (the "truest woman in my life"); and sets off on a yearlong, countrywide jag.

Horan, Nancy

Loving Frank 356 p. 2007 9 copies **LP, CD**

Horan's ambitious first novel is a fictionalization of the life of Mamah Borthwick Cheney, best known as the woman who wrecked Frank Lloyd Wright's first marriage. Despite the title, this is not a romance, but a portrayal of an independent, educated woman at odds with the restrictions of the early 20th century.

Hosseini, Khaled

The Kite Runner 324 p. 2003 10 copies **LP**

Traces the unlikely friendship of a wealthy Afghan youth and a servant's son, in a tale that spans the final days of Afghanistan's monarchy through the atrocities of the present day.

Jones, Edward

The Known World 388 p. 2003 10 copies **LP**

When a plantation proprietor and former slave--now possessing slaves of his own--dies, his household falls apart in the wake of a slave rebellion and corrupt underpaid patrollers who enable free black people to be sold into slavery.

Kingsolver, Barbara

Poisonwood Bible 550 p. 1998 10 copies **LP**

The family of a fierce evangelical Baptist missionary--Nathan Price, his wife, and his four daughters--begins to unravel after they embark on a 1959 mission to the Belgian Congo, where they find their lives transformed over the course of three decades.

Krakauer, Jon

Under the Banner of Heaven 399 p. 2003 10 copies **CD**

A double murder is the core of this expose of violent faith in America's Mormon communities.

Larson, Erik

The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair that Changed America 390 p. 2003 10 copies **LP**

The story of two men's obsessions with the Chicago World's Fair, one its architect, the other a murderer

Lee, Harper

To Kill a Mockingbird 323 p. 1960 10 copies **LP**

Lawyer Atticus Finch defends the real mockingbird of Harper Lee's classic, Pulitzer Prize-winning novel--a black man charged with the rape of a white woman. Through the eyes of Atticus's children, Scout and Jem Finch, Harper Lee explores with rich humor and unanswering honesty the irrationality of adult attitudes toward race and class in the Deep South of the 1930's.

Lynch, Thomas

Bodies in Motion and at Rest 273 p. 2000 15 copies

Essays written by local poet and funeral director about the time between birth and death.

McCall Smith, Alexander

The Careful Use of Compliments 247 p. 2007 10 copies **LP, CD**

In addition to being the nosiest and most sympathetic philosopher you are likely to meet, Isabel is now a mother. Charlie, her newborn son, presents her with the myriad wonders of a new life, and doting father Jamie presents her with an intriguing proposal: marriage.

McCann, Colum

Let the Great World Spin 349 p. 10 copies **LP**

In the dawning light of a late-summer morning, the people of lower Manhattan stand hushed, staring up in disbelief at the Twin Towers. It is August 1974, and a mysterious tightrope walker is . . . suspended a quarter mile above the ground. In the streets below, a slew of ordinary lives become extraordinary in bestselling novelist Colum McCann's stunningly intricate portrait of a city and its people.

McCarthy, Cormac

No Country for Old Men 309 p. 2005 10 copies **LP**

Stumbling upon a bloody massacre, a cache of heroin, and more than \$2 million in cash during a hunting trip near the Rio Grande, Llewellyn Moss removes the money, a decision that draws him and his young wife into the middle of a violent confrontation in which their only hope of survival is local sheriff Ed Tom Bell.

McCarthy, Cormac

The Road 287 p. 2006 9 copies **LP**

In a novel set in an indefinite, futuristic, post-apocalyptic world, a father and his young son make their way through the ruins of a devastated American landscape, struggling to survive and preserve the last remnants of their own humanity.

McCullers, Carson

The Heart is a Lonely Hunter 359 p. 2001 10 copies **LP**

A quiet, sensitive girl searches for beauty in a small, but damned Southern town.

McEwan, Ian

Atonement 368 p. 2003 10 copies **LP**

Three children lose their innocence and their lives are changed forever.

Mitchell, David,

The Thousand Autumns of Jacob De Zoet 479 p. 2010 10 copies **LP**

In 1799, the artificial island of Dejima lies in Nagasaki Harbor as Japan's outpost for the Dutch East Indies Company. There, Jacob de Zoet has come to make a fortune large enough to return to Holland and marry the woman he loves.

Moehringer, J.R.

The Tender Bar: A Memoir 368 p. 2005 10 copies **CD**

J.R. Moehringer grew up listening for the sound of his missing father, a disc jockey who disappeared before J.R. spoke his first words. His mother was his world, his anchor, but J.R. needed something more. So, he turned to the patrons of a grand old New York saloon.

Mortenson, Greg

Three cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace-- One School at a Time 349 p. 2006 10 copies **LP**

The astonishing, uplifting story of a real-life Indiana Jones and his humanitarian campaign to use education to combat terrorism in the Taliban's backyard Anyone who despairs of the individual's power to change lives has to read the story of Greg Mortenson.

Murphy, Louise

The True Story of Hansel and Gretel 297 p. 2003 10 copies

In the last months of the Nazi occupation of Poland, two children are left by their father and stepmother to find safety in a dense forest. Because their real names will reveal their Jewishness, they are renamed "Hansel" and "Gretel".

Nabokov, Vladimir

Lolita 317 p. 1958 10 copies

A novel that studies the moral disintegration of a man whose obsessive desire to possess his stepdaughter destroys the lives of those around him.

Nafisi, Azar

Reading Lolita in Tehran 384 p. 2003 10 copies **LP**

Memoir of a clandestine book club in Tehran.

Nemirovsky, Irene

Suite Francaise 431 p. 2006 10 copies **LP**

A story of life in France under the Nazi occupation includes two parts--"Storm in June," set amid the chaotic 1940 exodus from Paris, and "Dolce," set in a German-occupied village rife with resentment, resistance, and collaboration.

Obama, Barack

Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance 457 p. 1996 12 copies **LP**

In this lyrical, unsentimental, and compelling memoir of, the son of a black African father and a white American mother searches for a workable meaning to his life as a black American.

Ondaatje, Michael

Anil's Ghost 311 p. 2000 14 copies **LP**

Forensic anthropologist is sent to her native Sri Lanka to investigate a series of murders.

O'Neill, Joseph

Netherland 256 p. 2008 10 copies **LP**

Hans van den Broek, the main character in this ruminative third novel (and fourth book) by Irish/Turkish/English author O'Neill (Blood-Dark Track), is a Dutch-transplanted Londoner working in New York City at the start of the 21st century. Though a successful equities analyst, Hans is given more to reverie than to action

Penney, Stef

The Tenderness of Wolves 371 p. 2006 10 copies **LP**

When her teenage son disappears in the aftermath of a brutal murder, a determined mother sets out from her snow-covered nineteenth-century settlement to find him, an effort that is hampered by vigilante groups and the harrowing forces of nature.

Peterson, Per

Out Stealing Horses 238 p. 2003 10 copies **LP**

Award-winning Norwegian novelist Petterson renders the meditations of Trond Sander, a man nearing 70, dwelling in self-imposed exile at the eastern edge of Norway in a primitive cabin.

Pollan, Michael

The Omnivore's Dilemma 411 p. 2006 10 copies **LP**

The question of what to have for dinner has confronted us since man discovered fire. But how we answer that question now, at the dawn of the 21st century, may determine our survival as a species.

Powers, Richard

The Echo Maker 451 p. 2006 10 copies **LP**

After 27 yr old Mark Schluter has a near-fatal accident he emerges from his coma thinking his sister is really an imposter.

Robinson, Marilynne

Gilead 247 p. 2004 10 copies **CD**

In 1956, toward the end of Reverend John Ames' life, he begins a letter to his young son, an account of himself and his forebears.

Ruiz Zafon, Carlos

The Shadow of the Wind 486 p. 2001 10 copies

The international literary sensation—a runaway bestseller in Spain—is about a boy’s quest through the secrets and shadows of postwar Barcelona for a mysterious author whose book has proved as dangerous to own as it is impossible to forget.

Schine, Cathleen

The Three Weissmans of Wesport 292 p. 2010 10 copies **LP**

A modern tale inspired by "Sense and Sensibility" finds financially strapped literary sisters Miranda and Annie moving in with divorcée Betty in a run-down Connecticut beach cottage, where they find love among the suburban aristocracy.

Shaffer, Mary Ann

Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society 274 p. 2008 8 copies **LP**

In 1946 England, writer Juliet Ashton receives a letter from a man living on Guernsey, recently liberated from Nazi occupation. Charming and optimistic without trivializing its dark subject, this debut epistolary novel celebrates the power of books to connect and comfort people during difficult times.

Shlaes, Amity

The Forgotten Man: A New History of the Great Depression 400 p. 2007 10 copies **LP**

“Amity Shlaes brings a new evaluation of Franklin D. Roosevelt’s response to the Great Depression, with lessons for our Times.” *The Washington Times*

Simonson, Helen

Major Pettigrew’s Last Stand 358 p. 2010 10 copies **LP**

Forced to confront the realities of life in the twenty-first century when he falls in love with Pakistani widow Mrs. Ali, Major Pettigrew finds the relationship challenged by local prejudices that view Mrs. Ali, a Cambridge native, as a perpetual foreigner.

Skloot, Rebecca

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks 369 p. 2009 10 copies **LP**

Documents the story of how scientists took cells from an unsuspecting descendant of freed slaves and created a human cell line that has been kept alive indefinitely, enabling discoveries in such areas as cancer research, in vitro fertilization, and gene mapping.

Small, David

Stitches 329 p. 12 copies (**Graphic Novel**)

In *Stitches*, Small, the award-winning children’s illustrator and author, re-creates a terrifying event in a life story that might have been imagined by Kafka. As the images painfully tumble out . . . we gain a ringside seat at a gothic family drama where David—a highly anxious yet supremely talented child—all too often became the unwitting object of his parents’ buried frustration and rage.

Stegner, Wallace

Angle of Repose 569 p. 1971 10 copies **CD**

Stegner's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel is the story of Lyman Ward, a retired historian confined to a wheelchair, who sets out to write his grandparents' remarkable story, chronicling their days spent carving civilization into the surface of America's western frontier.

Steinbeck, John

The Grapes of Wrath 455 p. 1939 10 copies **LP**

Forced from their home, the Joad family is lured to California to find work; instead they find disillusionment, exploitation, and hunger.

Stockett, Kathryn

The Help 451 p. 2009 12 copies **CD**

What perfect timing for this optimistic, uplifting debut novel (and maiden publication of Amy Einhorn's new imprint) set during the nascent civil rights movement in Jackson, Miss., where black women were trusted to raise white children but not to polish the household silver.

Strout, Elizabeth

Olive Kitteridge 270 p. 2008 13 copies **LP**

The abrasive, vulnerable title character sometimes stands center stage, sometimes plays a supporting role in these 13 sharply observed dramas of small-town life from Strout (*Abide with Me*, 2006, etc.). Olive Kitteridge certainly makes a formidable contrast with her gentle, quietly cheerful husband Henry from the moment we meet them both in "Pharmacy," which introduces us to several other denizens of Crosby, Maine.

Twain, Mark

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn 322 p. 1880 10 copies **CD**

More than a century after its publication, the critical debate over the symbolic significance of Huck's and Jim's voyage is still fresh, and it remains a major work that can be enjoyed at many levels: as an incomparable adventure story and as a classic of American humor.

Verghese, Abraham

Cutting for Stone 541 p. 2009 10 copies **CD**

Twin brothers born from a secret love affair between an Indian nun and a British surgeon in Addis Ababa, Marion and Shiva Stone come of age in an Ethiopia on the brink of revolution, where their love for the same woman drives them apart.

Walls, Jeannette

The Glass Castle 288 p. 2005 10 copies **LP**

Jeannette Walls grew up with parents whose ideals and stubborn nonconformity were both their curse and their salvation. Hers is a story of triumph against all odds, but also a tender, moving tale of unconditional love in a family that despite its profound flaws gave her the fiery determination to carve out a successful life on her own terms.

Walls, Jeannette

Half-Broke Horses: A true life novel 272 p. 2010 10 copies **LP**

Presents a novel based on the life of the author's grandmother, Lily Casey Smith, who learned to break horses in childhood, journeyed five hundred miles as a teen to become a teacher, and ran a vast ranch in Arizona with her husband while raising two children.

Wroblewski, David

Story of Edgar Sawtelle 562 p. 2008 10 copies **LP**

Set in Wisconsin, this deeply nuanced epic tells the story of a boy, his dog, and much more. Part mystery, part Hamlet, the story opens with a sinister and seemingly unrelated scene that begins to make sense as the narrative progresses.

Zadoorian, Michael

Second Hand 270 p. 2000 10 copies

Owner of a second hand store in Metro Detroit discovers old photographs that transform his life.

Zusak, Markus

The Book Thief 550 p. 2005 10 copies **LP**

Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel—a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.