

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.

Ackerman, Diane

The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story 323p 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 276p 2008 **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 310p 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 520p 1993 10 Copies

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

Austen, Jane

Sense and Sensibility 327p 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.

Auster, Paul

The Brooklyn Follies 306p 2006 10 copies

"If you haven't read Paul Auster's fiction before, his newest novel, *The Brooklyn Follies*, is a great place to begin. . . . Auster has written a sublime soap opera about the ways in which people abandon and save one another."--The Boston Globe

Timbuktu 181 p 1999 10 Copies

Mr. Bones, the canine sidekick of Willy G. Christmas, a brilliant but troubled Brooklyn poet, accompanies his master on a trip to Baltimore, Maryland, to search for Willy's high school teacher and beloved mentor, Bea Swanson, in a novel narrated from the dog's point of view.

Banks, Russell

The Sweet Hereafter 357p 1991 10 Copies

Four narrators--bus driver Dolores, upright Bill, shrewd Mitchell, and teenaged Nichole—address agonizing questions as they describe an accident that killed fourteen children and the effects of the tragedy on themselves and their town.

Berg, Elizabeth

Dream When You're Feeling Blue 276p 2007 10 copies **LP**

After sending their men off to fight in the war, sisters Kitty and Louise Heaney join their flirtatious younger sister, Tish, in writing letters to servicemen overseas.

Bohjalian, Chris

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

Boyle, Kevin

Arc of Justice 415p 2004 10 Copies

History professor and Detroit native, Boyle writes about the sensational murder trial which ignited the Civil Rights Movement in Detroit in 1925.

Brooks, Geraldine

People of the Book 368p 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

Carey, Peter

My Life as a Fake 300p. 2003 10 Copies

Accompanying the arrogant poet, John Slater, to Malaysia, London editor Sarah Wode-Douglass finds herself obsessively drawn to a mysterious manuscript that bears a legacy of fraud and danger.

True History of the Kelly Gang 365p 2000 10 Copies

Exploits of the legendary 19th century Australian outlaw Ned Kelly.

Cather, Willa

My Antonia 298p 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.

Clemens, Paul

Made in Detroit 241p 2005 10 copies

White and Catholic, Paul Clemens grew up in the '70s, '80s, and '90s in predominantly black, protestant Detroit. Sparing no one—particularly not himself—this is an examination of race and class relations from a fresh perspective.

Dai, Sijie

Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress 197p 2001 10 Copies **LP**

The lives of two boys take an unexpected turn during the Chinese Cultural Revolution.

Danticat, Edwidge

The Farming of Bones 312p 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.

Delinsky, Barbara

Family Tree 400p 2007 10 copies **LP**

When Dana and Hugh Clarke's baby is born into their wealthy, white New England seaside community, the baby's unmistakably African-American features puzzle her thoroughly Anglo-looking parents..

Diaz, Junot

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

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 227p 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.

Dubus, Andre

House of Sand and Fog 361p 1999 10 Copies LP

In this riveting novel of almost unbearable suspense, three fragile yet determined people become dangerously entangled in a relentlessly escalating crisis.

Edward, Kim

The Memory Keeper's Daughter 401p 2005 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.

Eggers, Dave

What is the What 536p 2006 10 copies

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.

Eugenides, Jeffrey

Middlesex 544p 2000 9 Copies LP

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for 2003, this epic coming of age novel takes place in the Detroit area and spans five decades, from 1920-1970.

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 292p 2007 10 Copies

Feeling at the top of her game when she is suddenly diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's disease, Harvard psychologist Alice Howland struggles to find meaning and purpose in her life as her concept of self gradually slips away.

Glass, Julia

Three Junes 368p 2002 10 Copies LP

Interconnected lives, loves, and relationships of different generations over the course of three crucial summers.

Goodman, Allegra

Kaaterskill Falls 324p. 1998 10 Copies **LP**

A small Orthodox Jewish sect spends summers in a Dutch community, and in 1976, the townspeople begin to resent the intrusion, and female members of the group chafe under its laws and restrictions.

Haigh, Jennifer

Mrs. Kimble 400p. 2003 10 Copies

Follows twenty-five years in the life of Ken Kimble as seen through the eyes of his three wives, from Birdie, who struggles with his abandonment; to heiress Joan, who is recovering from a personal loss; to Dinah, who suffers from an unhappy past.

Halberstam, David

The Teammates 222p 2003 10 Copies **LP**

David Halberstam, the bestselling author of the baseball classic *Summer of '49*, has followed the members of the 1949 championship Boston Red Sox team for years, especially Williams, Doerr, DiMaggio, and Pesky. In this extremely moving book, Halberstam reveals how these four teammates became friends, and how that friendship thrived for more than 60 years.

Harris, Joanne

Five Quarters of the Orange 336p 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.

Haruf, Kent

Plain Song 301p 1999 10 Copies **LP**

A story of loss and redemption as a high school teacher helps a pregnant teenage start a new life with a non-traditional family.

Hornby, Nick

How To Be Good 305p 2001 10 Copies **LP**

Katie, a liberal, urban mother and doctor from North London, finds her life turned upside-down when her husband, David, undergoes an outrageous spiritual transformation.

Hosseini, Khaled

The Kite Runner 324p 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.

Jen, Gish

The Love Wife 379p 2004 10 Copies

The Wongs describe themselves as a “half half” family, but the actual fractions are more complicated, given Carnegie’s Chinese heritage, his wife Blondie’s WASP background, and the various ethnic permutations of their adopted and biological children. Into this new American family comes a volatile new member.

Jones, Edward

The Known World 388p 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.

Kimmel, Haven

She Got up off the Couch: And Other Heroic Acts from Mooreland, Indiana 336p 2006 10 copies

"It is Kimmel's mother's journey from beaten-down housewife to university student and schoolteacher, told through Zippy's irresistible voice, that forms the backbone of *She Got Up Off the Couch*. Kimmel deftly chronicles a child's awakening to a world outside tiny Mooreland..." --The Miami Herald

Kingsolver, Barbara

Poisonwood Bible 550p 1998 **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 399p 2003 10 Copies

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

Landvik, Lorna

Angry Housewives Eating Bon Bons 336p 2003 10 Copies **LP**

From the initial formation of The Freesia Court Book Club and over the course of the next thirty years, five women in small-town Minnesota share the events, triumphs, tragedies, hardships, joys, and sorrows of their lives.

Larson, Erik

The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair that Changed America 390p 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* 323p 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.

Lively, Penelope

***Heat Wave* 214p 1996 10 Copies LP**

Mother and daughter deal with romantic love and it's frequent disillusionment in a pastoral setting on the coast of England.

Lodge, David

***Therapy* 320p 1995 8 Copies LP**

British TV sitcom writer Lawrence Passmore is a therapy addict. This novel follows his humorous quest for contentment.

Lynch, Thomas

***Bodies in Motion and at Rest* 273p 2000 15 Copies**

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

***The Undertaking: Life Studies from the Dismal Trade* 202p 1997 15 Copies**

Essays about the life of a local funeral director and his mission to unravel the mysteries of life and death.

McBride, James

***The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to his White Mother* 228p 1996 15 Copies LP**

A memoir of a black man's white Jewish mother.

McCall Smith, Alexander

***The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency* 235p 1998 10 Copies**

Meet Precious Ramotswe, "the Miss Marple of Botswana" (*The New York Times Book Review*)-a heroine who is endearing, engaging, and simply irresistible. With a keen desire to help people with the problems of their lives, she solves mysteries great and small for friends and strangers alike.

***The Careful Use of Compliments* 247p 2007 10 Copies**

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.

McCarthy, Cormac

No Country for Old Men 309p 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.

The Road 287p 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 359p 2001 10 Copies **LP**

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

McEwan, Ian

Atonement 368p 2003 10 Copies **LP**

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

Moehring, J.R.

The Tender Bar: A Memoir 368p 2005 10 copies

J.R. Moehring 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 349p 2006 10 Copies **LP**

The inspiring account of one man's campaign to build schools in the most dangerous, remote, and anti-American reaches of Asia.

Mosley, Walter

The Man in my Basement 272p 2005 10 copies **LP**

The story of Charles Blakey, a young black man who can't find a job, drinks too much, and, worst of all, stands to lose the beautiful home that has belonged to his family for generations. But Charles's fortunes take an odd turn when a stranger offers nearly \$50,000 to rent out Charles's basement-and soon, as the boarder transforms the basement into a prison cell, Charles finds himself drawn into circumstances almost unimaginably bizarre and profoundly unsettling.

Murphy, Louise

The True Story of Hansel and Gretel 297p 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 317p 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 384p 2003 10 Copies **LP**

Memoir of a clandestine book club in Tehran.

Nemirovsky, Irene

Suite Francaise 431p 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.

Niffenegger, Audrey

The Time Traveler's Wife 540p 2003 10 Copies **LP**

Passionately in love, Clare and Henry vow to hold onto each other and their marriage as they struggle with the effects of Chrono-Displacement Disorder, a condition that casts Henry involuntarily into the world of time travel.

Obama, Barack

Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance 457p 1996 **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 311p 2000 14 Copies **LP**

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

Pamuk, Orhan

Snow 426p 2004 10 copies

From the acclaimed author of *My Name Is Red* comes a spellbinding tale of disparate yearnings for love, art, power, and God set in a remote Turkish town, where stirrings of political Islamism threaten to unravel the secular order.

Patchett, Ann

Bel Canto 318p 2001 10 Copies **LP**

When terrorists seize hostages at an embassy party, an unlikely assortment of people is thrown together, including American opera star Roxane Coss, and Mr. Hosokawa, a Japanese CEO and her biggest fan.

Penney, Stef

The Tenderness of Wolves 371p 2006 10 copies

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 238p 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.

Plotz, David

The Genius Factory: The Curious History of the Nobel Prize Sperm Bank 262p 2005 10 Copies

This is the inside, never-before-told story of the Nobel Prize sperm bank, the most radical experiment in human breeding in U.S. history. More than 200 children were born from this sperm bank between 1980-1999. It is also the story of the extraordinary meetings between the children and their donor fathers.

Pollan, Michael

The Omnivore's Dilemma 411p 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 451p 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 247p 2004 10 Copies

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.

Roth, Philip

The Plot Against America 391p 2004 10 Copies

When the renowned aviation hero and rabid isolationist Charles A. Lindbergh defeated Franklin Roosevelt by a landslide in the 1940 presidential election, fear invaded every Jewish household in America. Not only had Lindbergh, in a nationwide radio address, publicly blamed the Jews for selfishly pushing America toward a pointless war with Nazi Germany, but, upon taking office as the thirty-third president of the United States, he negotiated a cordial "understanding" with Adolf Hitler, whose conquest of Europe and whose virulent anti-Semitic policies he appeared to accept without difficulty.

Ruiz Zafon, Carlos

The Shadow of the Wind 486p 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.

See, Lisa

Snow Flower and the Secret Fan 258p 2005 10 copies LP

Mystery writer See, author of *The Interior* (1999) and *Dragon Bones* (2003), takes readers to nineteenth-century China to explore a complex friendship between two women.

Shaara, Michael

The Killer Angels 344p 1993 15 Copies LP

South and North clash again during this fictional retelling of the Battle of Gettysberg

Shlaes, Amity

The Forgotten Man: A New History of the Great Depression 400p.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*

Sittenfeld, Curtis

American Wife 555p 10 copies LP

In her bold third novel, the author of the best-selling *Prep* (2005) presents a fictional portrait of First Lady Laura Bush, although she changes some important details. In a memoir told entirely in the first person, Alice Blackwell relays her unlikely ascent to the White House from her humble Wisconsin beginnings.

Smith, Lee

Fair and Tender Ladies 316p 1988 10 Copies

The story of Ivy Rowe, born near the turn of the century in the Virginia Mountain enclave of Sugar Fork, is told completely through letters that Ivy is forever writing family and friends.

Stegner, Wallace

Angle of Repose 569p 1971 10 copies

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 455p 1939 10 Copies

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

Tolle, Eckhart

A New Earth: Awakening to Your Life's Purpose 309p 2005 10 Copies

Building on the astonishing success of *The Power of Now*, Eckhart Tolle takes us beyond our own lives to show that we now have an opportunity to birth a new, more loving world.

Tropper, Jonathan

The Book of Joe 338p 2004 10 Copies

After writing a novel that lampooned nearly everyone in his hometown, Joe Goffman is forced to return to that same town to care for his father and discovers that people have not forgotten the indignities he heaped upon them.

Twain, Mark

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn 322p 1880 10 Copies

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.

Tyler, Anne

Digging to America 277p 2006 10 Copies

In this novel, Anne Tyler gives us a story about what it is to be an American, and about Maryam Yazdan, who after thirty-five years in this country must finally come to terms with her "outsiderness." Two families, who would otherwise never have come together, meet by chance at the Baltimore airport - the Donaldsons, a very American couple, and the Yazdans, Maryam's fully assimilated son and his attractive Iranian American wife.

Walls, Jeannette

The Glass Castle 288p 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.

Wharton, Edith

The House of Mirth 371p 1990 10 Copies **LP**

A young woman struggles to maintain her integrity in a society based on greed and vulgarity.

Zadoorian, Michael

Second Hand 270p 2000 10 Copies

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

Zusak, Markus

The Book Thief 550p 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.