

Literary Fiction

DB88814

Title: History of Wolves

Author: Emily Fridlund

Fourteen-year-old Linda lives with her parents in a mostly abandoned Minnesota commune. Isolated at school, she is welcomed into the home of a neighboring couple who hire her to babysit their little boy. When things go wrong, however, she has no one to whom she can turn. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2017.

DB68405

Title: Serena

Author: Ron Rash

Appalachian North Carolina, 1929. Newlyweds George and Serena Pemberton, owners of a logging company, arrive to strip the land before the government incorporates it into a national park. Serena's cruelty extends to her lumber camp workers and to a teenager impregnated by her husband. Violence, some strong language, and some descriptions of sex. Commercial audiobook. 2008.

DB75192

Title: The Light Between Oceans

Author: M.L. Stedman

Western Australia, 1926. On an island one hundred miles from the mainland, lighthouse keepers Isabel and Tom Sherbourne discover a boat carrying a dead man and a crying baby. The decisions they make that day come back to haunt them several years later. Bestseller. 2012.

DB54950

Title: The Life of Pi

Author: Yan Martel

Pi Patel, the sole human survivor of a shipwreck, is in a lifeboat with an injured zebra, a hyena, an orangutan, and an adult Bengal tiger. Strangely, after 227 days in the Pacific, the boy and the tiger make landfall. Some violence. 2001.

DB24695

Title: The Handmaid's Tale

Author: Margaret Atwood

Set in the future, the United States of America is now the Republic of Gilead, a fundamentalist Christian theocracy that arose after fanatics shot the president, machine-gunned the Congress and forced the army to declare a state of emergency. To reverse the declining birthrate, women are forcibly recruited into the ranks of Handmaids and are assigned to the Commanders of the Faithful, whose wives are barren. Some strong language and explicit descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 986.

DB57457

Title: The Kite Runner

Author: Khaled Hosseini

An Afghan in California recalls a fateful 1975 day in Kabul that seared his soul at age twelve--the day he won a kite tournament and abandoned a younger companion to rape. That cowardice keeps haunting him during exile in America until the opportunity for atonement arises--back in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan. Violence and some strong language. 2003.

DB57102

Title: The Time Traveler's Wife

Author: Audrey Niffenegger

Librarian Henry DeTamble first meets his future wife, Clare, when he is twenty-eight and Clare is twenty--but Clare has actually known Henry since she was six. Henry suffers from Chrono-Impairment, a disorder that catapults him sporadically through time, complicating the couple's enduring love. Some explicit descriptions of sex and some strong language. 2003.

DB54698

Title: The Lovely Bones

Author: Alice Sebold

Susie Salmon, a fourteen-year-old girl murdered by a neighbor, watches over her family and friends from heaven. While adjusting to a new habitat, she reaches out to them as she observes their struggle to survive their grief. Some descriptions of sex, some violence, and some strong language. Bestseller. 2002.

DB55533

Title: The Secret Life of Bees

Author: Sue Monk Kidd

South Carolina, 1964. Fourteen-year-old Lily rescues her African American housekeeper--and substitute mother--Rosaleen, from the hospital. Rosaleen had been beaten for trying to register to vote. They flee to a safe place where Lily's battered late mother had also fled--a beekeeping operation run by three black sisters. Some strong language. 2002.

DB56937

Title: The Namesake

Author: Jhumpa Lahiri

Thirty years in the life of Gogol Ganguli, born to Calcutta immigrants shortly after their 1960s arrival in Boston. Gogol's name is a constant burden to him, so he legally changes it to Nikhil. Yet as a first-generation American stumbling along the path to maturity, he remains defined by the name Gogol. Some descriptions of sex and some strong language. Bestseller. 2003.

DB50261

Title: White Teeth

Author: Zadie Smith

Set in London and spanning some twenty-five years, these are the misadventures of World War II buddies Archie Jones, an Englishman, and Samad Iqbal, a Bengali Muslim. Encompassing their marriages and offspring, their story explores religion, ethnicity, and gender. Some descriptions of sex and some strong language. Bestseller. 2000.

DB46882

Title: The Poisonwood Bible

Author: Barbara Kingsolver

An American missionary family lands in the village of Kilanga in the Congo in 1959, and the cultural confrontation begins immediately. The mother and four daughters react to their new environment, the villagers respond to their new preacher, and the family dynamics change. All of this is intensified by the Congo's own political turmoil. Bestseller. 1998.

DB44762

Title: Cold Mountain

Author: Charles Frazier

A wounded Confederate soldier leaves the war on an arduous trek to his mountain home and the woman he aims to marry. Meanwhile, his intended struggles to work her deceased father's hardscrabble farm. Depicts hardship, peril, and courage in the wartime South. Strong language and violence. Bestseller.

DB65494

Title: Run

Author: Ann Patchett

Boston. African American Tennessee Moser is injured saving one of widowed former mayor Bernard Doyle's black adopted sons from a car accident. The Doyle boys--Teddy, twenty, and Tip, twenty-one--discover that Tennessee is their birth mother when they take home her eleven-year-old daughter Kenya. Strong language. Bestseller. 2007.

DB66656

Title: The Story of Edgar Sawtelle

Author: David Wroblewski

Wisconsin, 1970s. Gar and Trudy Sawtelle raise an intuitive and intelligent dog breed on their farm. One dog, Almondine, can communicate with the Sawtelle's mute son Edgar. After Gar's brother arrives, Gar dies and fourteen-year-old Edgar flees into the forest with three of the dogs. Some strong language. Bestseller. 2008.

DB62431

Title: The Book Thief

Author: Markus Zusak

Death narrates the tale of nine-year-old Liesel from 1939 to 1943 in Nazi Germany. Liesel copes with a foster family, air raids, her friend Rudy, and a hidden Jew, sustained by the books she steals. Some strong language. For senior high and older readers. 2006.

DB77453

Title: Goldfinch

Author: Donna Tartt

At the age of thirteen, Theo Decker survives an accident that kills his mother. Abandoned by his father, Theo is raised by wealthy family friends.

His one connection to his mother--a painting--draws Theo into New York City's underground art world as he grows older. Pulitzer Prize winner. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2013.

DB85212

Title: The Underground Railroad

Author: Colson Whitehead

Cora, a third-generation slave, flees the plantation where she lives. She escapes with a man who claims to know how to get to the Underground Railroad. Once there, she discovers it is an actual railroad, and every stop shows her moments of horror and joy. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2016.

DB79182

Title: All the Light We Cannot See

Author: Anthony Doerr

When Paris is invaded by the Nazis, Marie-Laure LeBlanc's father evacuates her to St. Malo to stay with her great-uncle. Blind since the age of six, Marie-Laure must learn the town by the scale model her father has left. Then, the Germans arrive. Violence, and descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2014.

DB71092

Title: Tinkers

Author: Paul Harding

As clock restorer George Washington Crosby lies dying in his Massachusetts home, he hallucinates and channels his late father Howard. A tinker and mystic, Howard worked as a traveling peddler to keep his epilepsy a secret. Pulitzer Prize. Bestseller. Commercial audiobook. 2009.