

Willmar Public Library Book Club in a Bag Kits (updated 10/2/25)

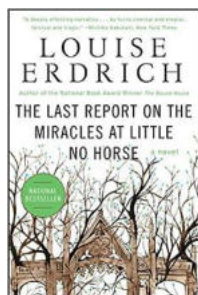
Adult Fiction



Antelope Woman [12 books] by Louise Erdrich.

ERDRIC

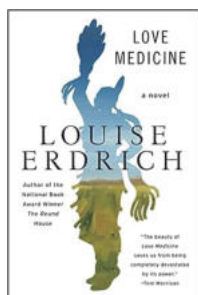
A novel of connections in which history, lust, contemporary Native American life, hand-me-down names, and legends combine. Set in Minneapolis, originally an important trading centre and hunting ground, the story goes back in time. The intertwining lives and themes of the novel include tragic loss, confusions of passion, transformation, betrayals, revenge, and an obsession to recreate a perfect German cake, remembered from a taste decades earlier. Once again, her unsentimental writing captures the Native American sense of despair, magic, and humour in an unforgettable book.



The last report on the miracles at Little No Horse [12 books] by Louise Erdrich.

ERDRIC

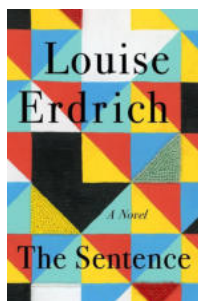
For more than a half century, Father Damien Modeste has served his beloved Native American tribe, the Ojibwe, on the remote reservation of Little No Horse. Now, nearing the end of his life, Father Damien dreads the discovery of his physical identity, for he is a woman who has lived as a man. To further complicate his quiet existence, a troubled colleague comes to the reservation to investigate the life of the perplexing, possibly false saint Sister Leopolda. Father Damien alone knows the strange truth of Leopolda's piety, but these facts are bound up in his own secret. He is faced with the most difficult decision: Should he tell all and risk everything . . . or manufacture a protective history for Leopolda, though he believes her wonder-working is motivated solely by evil?



Love medicine: a novel [12 books] by Louise Erdrich.

ERDRIC

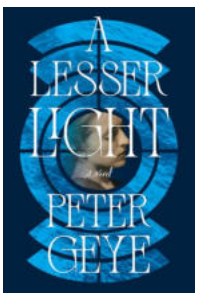
With astonishing virtuosity, each chapter of this stunning novel draws on a range of voices to limn its tales. Black humor mingles with magic, injustice bleeds into betrayal, and through it all, bonds of love and family marry the elements into a tightly woven whole that pulses with the drama of life.



The sentence: a novel [12 books] by Louise Erdrich

ERDRIC

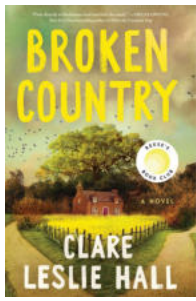
The Sentence asks what we owe to the living, the dead, to the reader and to the book. A small independent bookstore in Minneapolis is haunted from November 2019 to November 2020 by the store's most annoying customer. Flora dies on All Souls' Day, but she simply won't leave the store. Toookie, who has landed a job selling books after years of incarceration that she survived by reading "with murderous attention," must solve the mystery of this haunting while at the same time trying to understand all that occurs in Minneapolis during a year of grief, astonishment, isolation, and furious reckoning.



A Lesser Light: a novel [8 books] by Peter Geye

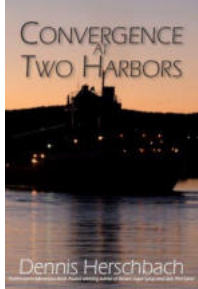
GEYE

A Lesser Light takes place in a lighthouse on the remote shores of northern Lake Superior in 1910. At the beginning of the story, newly-appointed head lighthouse keeper Theodulf Sauer greets his new wife, Willa Brandt, who has been forced into marriage after her father's untimely death.



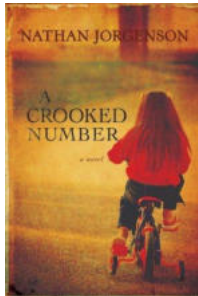
Broken Country: a novel [10 books] by Clare Leslie Hall

Beth and her gentle, kind husband Frank are happily married, but their relationship relies on the past staying buried. But when Beth's brother-in-law shoots a dog going after their sheep, Beth doesn't realize that the gunshot will alter the course of their lives. For the dog belonged to none other than Gabriel Wolfe, the man Beth loved as a teenager. Gabriel has returned to the village with his young son Leo, a boy who reminds Beth of her own son, who died in a tragic accident. As Beth is pulled back into Gabriel's life, dangerous secrets and jealousies from the past resurface, this time with deadly consequences. Beth is forced to make a choice between who she once was, and who she has become.



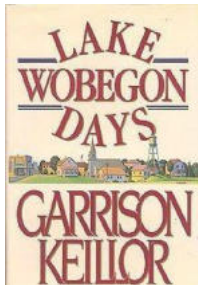
Convergence at Two Harbors [12 books] by Dennis Herschbach.

In a post-9/11 world, terrorists want Americans to believe that anywhere in the continent can be hit at anytime. The ore docks at Two Harbors, Minnesota, are vulnerable.



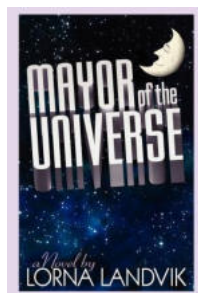
A Crooked Number: a novel [12 books] by Nathan Jorgenson.

With a remarkable combination of pathos and humor, Nathan Jorgenson spins another unique and powerful yarn about the human condition. A Crooked Number chronicles the relationship of freshman dental student Grant Thorson and Professor Kate Bellows. Jorgenson weaves the themes young love, graduate school, and amateur baseball into a rich and tender coming-of-age story.



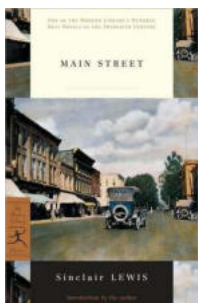
Lake Wobegon Days [12 books] by Garrison Keillor.

Based on material from his radio show A Prairie Home Companion, the book brought Keillor's work to a much wider audience and achieved international success selling over 1 million copies.



Mayor of the Universe [12 books] by Lorna Landvik

The world sees Fletcher Weschel as a mild-mannered actuary, but it could be the world has vision problems. Still, Fletcher wonders what the point is of having a wild heart if it's ultimately harnessed by a timid soul. In his fantasies, he returns the call of adventure with a bellowing, "here I come!" In reality, no one hears his whispered, "me too!" ... except for an unlikely group that descends upon him one cold November night. With the help of these visitors, Fletcher's life will never be the same, and the adventures he's about to undertake are truly out-of-this world.



Main Street [12 books] by Sinclair Lewis.

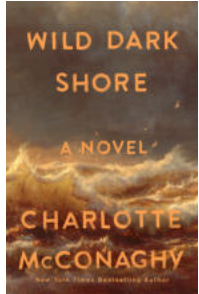
Main Street is a satirical novel written by Sinclair Lewis, and published in 1920. The story is set in the small town of Gopher Prairie, Minnesota, a fictionalized version of Sauk Centre, Minnesota, Lewis's hometown.



Everything you want me to be: a novel [10 books] by Mindy Mejia.

MEIJA

High school senior Hattie Hoffman has spent her whole life playing many parts: the good student, the good daughter, the good citizen. When she's found brutally stabbed to death on the opening night of her high school play, the tragedy rips through the fabric of her small-town community. Local sheriff Del Goodman, a family friend of the Hoffmans, vows to find her killer, but trying to solve her murder yields more questions than answers. It seems that Hattie's acting talents ran far beyond the stage.



Wild Dark Shore [10 books] by Charlotte McConaghy

MCCONA

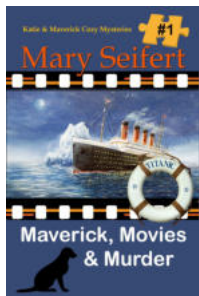
Dominic Salt and his three children are caretakers of Shearwater, a tiny island not far from Antarctica. With sea levels rising, the Salts are now its final inhabitants until a woman mysteriously washes ashore. Isolation has taken its toll on the Salts, but as they nurse the woman, Rowan, back to strength, it begins to feel like she might just be what they need. Rowan, long accustomed to protecting herself, starts imagining a future where she could belong to someone again. But Rowan isn't telling the whole truth about why she set out for Shearwater. And when she discovers sabotaged radios and a freshly dug grave, she realizes Dominic is keeping his own secrets.



Atmosphere: A Love Story [10 books] by Taylor Jenkins Reid

REID

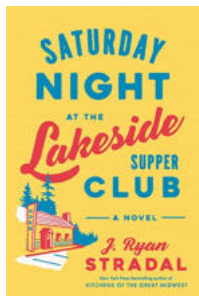
Joan Goodwin has been obsessed with the stars for as long as she can remember, but is content with her life as a professor and aunt. That is, until she comes across an advertisement seeking the first women scientists to join NASA's space shuttle program. Selected from thousands of applicants in the summer of 1980, Joan begins training alongside an exceptional group of fellow candidates. As the new astronauts become unlikely friends and prepare for their first flights, Joan finds a passion and a love she never imagined. It makes her question everything she thinks she knows about her place in the observable universe. Then, in December of 1984, on mission STS-LR9, it all changes in an instant.



Maverick, movies & murders [12 books] by Mary Seifert.

SEIFER

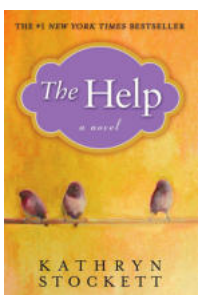
After losing everything, Katie Wilk is starting life over in Columbia, Minnesota, with a new career—giving up cryptanalysis in favor of teaching school—and a canine companion, Maverick, a black Labrador retriever. But on one of their first outings, Katie and Maverick discover a dead body in a nearby marshland.



Saturday Night at the Lakeside Supper Club [10 books] by J. Ryan Stradal

STRADA

Between The Lakeside Supper Club losing money daily and her husband's identity crisis, Mariel Prager needs a break. Mariel inherited the restaurant from her grandmother, skipping her mother, which created a rift between them that never quite healed. Her husband's family owns a chain of restaurants, which he thinks have a better future. After a devastating tragedy, Ned and Mariel lose almost everything they hold dear, and the hard-won victories of each family hang in the balance. Can one fractured family find a way to rebuild despite their losses, and will the Lakeside Supper Club be their salvation?



The help: a novel [10 books] by Kathryn Stockett.

STOCKE

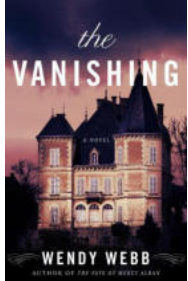
The Help is a historical fiction novel by American author Kathryn Stockett and published by Penguin Books in 2009. The story is about African Americans working in white households in Jackson, Mississippi, during the early 1960s.



Good night, Mr. Wodehouse [10 books] by Faith Sullivan.

SULLIV

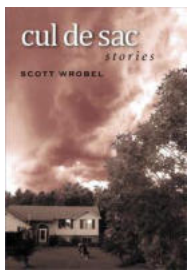
Throughout her life, Nell Stillman has struggled to find meaning in an increasingly chaotic world. A complicated marriage to a boorish husband; an early widowhood spent longing for her congressman lover; the loss of her child, a shell shocked WWI hero — her road has not been easy. But somehow she manages to find moments of grace, more often than not through the genial voice of P.G. Wodehouse, the beloved British novelist. Spanning the first half of the twentieth century, Good Night, Mr. Wodehouse celebrates the power of great novels — from Austen to Chekhov — to transform, console, and teach us the value of friendship and love.



The vanishing [12 books] by Wendy Webb.

WEBB

Recently widowed and rendered penniless by her Ponzi-scheming husband, Julia Bishop is eager to start anew. So when a stranger appears on her doorstep with a job offer, she finds herself accepting the mysterious yet unique position: caretaker to his mother, Amaris Sinclair, the famous and rather eccentric horror novelist whom Julia has always admired . . . and who the world believes is dead.



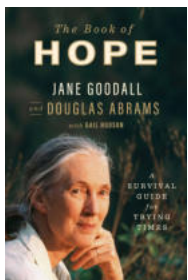
Cul de sac [12 books] by Scott Wrobel.

WROBEL

We know the men who populate Cul De Sac from our own neighborhoods and our own familiar fantasies of the American good life, yet in Scott Wrobel's hands their faults and strange inner minds frighten and delight us. Here are middle-aged men who deal with parenting, marriage, and grief by untangling extension cords, organizing garages, stalking seasonal Eastern European service workers at family resorts, violating jars of mayonnaise, and sabotaging houses-for-sale to keep their neighborhood Caucasian. Cul De Sac is an honest and empathetic look behind the tailored lawns and powerwashed-perfect decks of a suburban community to its awkwardly

humorous and sad reality—Cheeverland in a modern Midwestern suburb. Cul De Sac provokes, challenges, and invites nervous laughter.

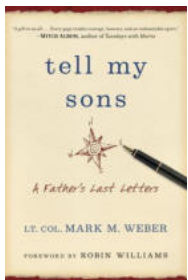
Adult Nonfiction



The book of hope: a survival guide for trying times [10 books] by Jane Goodall

304.2 GOO

Goodall gives her reasons for hope: humanity's "amazing intellect," nature's capacity for repair and resilience, the power and enthusiasm of young people, and human nature's indomitable spirit. The Book of Hope explores each reason in turn, often against Goodall's experiences of growing up in England during World War II and later learning of the Holocaust, as well as being at her chimpanzee research site in Gombe while genocide was occurring in Burundi and Rwanda, and being in New York City during the September 11 terror attacks.

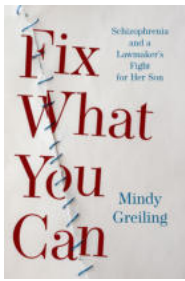


Tell my sons [11 books + 1 audiobook] by Lt. Col. Mark M. Weber

362.1969 WEB

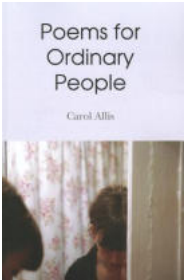
At the pinnacle of a soaring career in the U.S. Army, Lt. Col. Mark M. Weber was tapped to serve in a high-profile job within the Afghan Parliament as a military advisor. Weeks later, a routine physical revealed stage IV intestinal cancer in the 38-year-old father of three. Over the next two years he would fight a desperate battle he wasn't trained for, with his wife and boys as his reluctant but willing fighting force. When Weber realized that he was not going to survive this final tour of combat, he began to write a letter to his boys, so that as they grew up without him, they would know what his life-and-death story had taught him - about courage and fear, challenge and comfort, words and actions, pride and humility, seriousness and humor, and viewing life as a

never-ending search for new ideas and inspiration. This book is that letter. And it's not just for his sons. It's for everyone who can use the best advice a dying hero has to offer.



Fix what you can: schizophrenia and a lawmaker's fight for her son by Mindy Greiling **616.898 GRE**

In his early twenties, Mindy Greiling's son, Jim, was diagnosed with schizoaffective disorder. Greiling was a Minnesota state legislator who struggled, along with her husband, to navigate and improve the state's inadequate mental health system. *Fix What You Can* is an illuminating and frank account of caring for a person with a mental illness, told by a parent and advocate.



Poems for ordinary people [12 books] by Carol Allis. **811.6 ALL**

This book just might bring ordinary people back to poetry. "Is there poetry for ordinary people?" begins Carol Allis's first book.



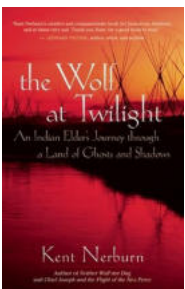
Hidden recipes: a Holocaust memoir [8 books] by Eva Moreimi **940.5318 MOR**

Before the Second World War, Ica and Ernő each lived a comfortable life in Czechoslovakia. Their lives were shattered by Nazi cruelty, prejudice and devastation. *Hidden Recipes* tells the story of their will and determination, and their struggles to survive. By sharing stories about their lives when food was abundant before the war, Ica secretly wrote down hundreds of recipes that she and her fellow inmates shared. Ironically, many of the delectable recipes were written on the reverse sides of papers that carried information about ammunition that was manufactured and used to annihilate the Jews during the Holocaust. Ernő spent several years in various Hungarian forced labor units, where he was required to perform strenuous manual labor. He courageously escaped with the help of righteous people, which saved his life. *Hidden Recipes* is a story of endurance, will to survive, courage, faith and finding joy and happiness again.



24 [10 books] edited by Mariia Kharytonova and Sofiia Vasylenko **947.7086 KHA**

On February 24, 2022, Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered a full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Nearly 6 million refugees have fled the Ukraine and are spread across Europe, according to the UNHCR, the United Nations Refugee Agency. The number 24 has become fatal for the Ukrainian nation. These 24 short stories are from Ukrainian civilians and soldiers, written about the invasion and beyond.



The wolf at twilight: an Indian elder's journey through a land of ghosts and shadows [12 books] by Kent Nerburn.

970.004975092 NER

A note is left on a car windshield, an old dog dies, and Kent Nerburn finds himself back on the Lakota reservation where he traveled more than a decade before with a tribal elder named Dan. The touching, funny, and haunting journey that ensues goes deep into reservation boarding-school mysteries, the dark confines of sweat lodges, and isolated Native homesteads far back in the Dakota hills in search of ghosts that have haunted Dan since childhood. In this fictionalized account of actual events, Nerburn brings the land of the northern High Plains alive and reveals the Native American way of teaching and learning with a depth that few outsiders have ever captured.

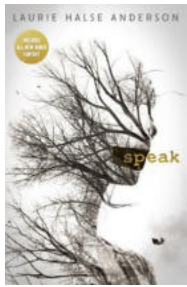


The Twenty-Ninth Day: surviving a grizzly attack in the Canadian tundra [10 books] by Alex Messenger **971.9304 MES**

This true-life wilderness survival epic recounts seventeen-year-old Alex Messenger's near-lethal encounter with a grizzly bear during a canoe trip in the Canadian tundra. The story follows Alex and his five companions as they paddle north through harrowing rapids and stunning terrain. Twenty-nine days into the trip, while out hiking alone, Alex is attacked by a barren-ground grizzly. Left for dead, he wakes to find that his summer adventure

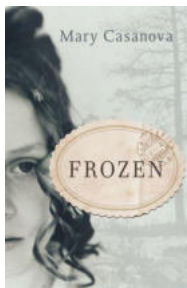
has become a struggle to stay alive. Over the next hours and days, Alex and his companions tend his wounds and use their resilience, ingenuity, and dogged perseverance to reach help at a remote village a thousand miles north of the US-Canadian border.

Young Adult



Speak [15 books + 1 audiobook + 1 playaway +1 DVD] by Laurie Halse Anderson. KIT YA ANDERS

From her first moment at Merryweather High, Melinda Sordino knows she's an outcast. She busted an end-of-summer party by calling the cops - a major infraction in high-school society - so her old friends won't talk to her, and people she doesn't know glare at her. She retreats into her head, where the lies and hypocrisies of high school stand in stark relief to her own silence, making her all the more mute. But it's not so comfortable in her head, either - there's something banging around in there that she doesn't want to think about. Try as she might to avoid it, it won't go away, until there is a painful confrontation. Once that happens, she can't be silent - she must speak the truth.



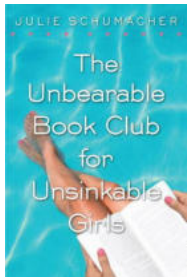
Frozen [12 books] by Mary Casanova. YA CASANO

Sixteen-year-old Sadie Rose hasn't said a word in eleven years—ever since the day she was found lying in a snowbank during a howling storm. Like her voice, her memories of her mother and what happened that night were frozen. Sadie Rose's search for her personal truth is laid against a swirling historical drama—a time of prohibition and women winning the right to vote, political corruption, and a fevered fight over the area's wilderness between a charismatic, unyielding, powerful industrialist and a quiet man battling to save the wide, wild forests and waters of northernmost Minnesota. Frozen is a suspenseful, moving testimonial to the haves and the have-nots, to the power of family and memory, and to the extraordinary strength of a young woman who has lost her voice in nearly every way—but is utterly determined to find it again.



Beautiful music for ugly children [12 books] by Kirstin Cronn-Mills. YA CRONN

Beautiful Music For Ugly Children is the story of Gabe. Gabe was born as Elizabeth but he's been sure for a long time that he's not a girl, he's a boy. The book tells the story of his first steps into transitioning publicly, and the difficulties he faces.



The Unbearable Book Club for Unsinkable Girls [13 books] by Julie Schumacher YA SCHUMA

I'm Adrienne Haus, survivor of a mother-daughter book club. Most of us didn't want to join. My mother signed me up because I was stuck at home all summer, with my knee in a brace. CeeCee's parents forced her to join after cancelling her Paris trip because she bashed up their car. The members of "The Unbearable Book Club", CeeCee, Jill, Wallis, and I, were all going into 11th grade A.P. English. But we weren't friends. We were literary prisoners, sweating, reading classics, and hanging out at the pool. If you want to find out how membership in a book club can end up with a person being dead, you can probably look us up under mother-daughter literary catastrophe. Or open this book and read my essay, which I'll turn in when I go back to school.