

**EASTON PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
**ADULT SUMMER READING RECOMMENDED TITLES - 2020**

**Contemporary Fiction**

***American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins**

**FIC CUMMINS, JEANINE ; Overdrive (ebook & audiobook), RBdigital (ebook)**

Lydia Quixano Perez lives in Acapulco, Mexico where she runs a bookstore. She has a son, Luca, and her husband is a journalist. Her life is fairly comfortable, although the drug cartels are beginning to seize the city. One day, a man enters the bookstore and comes to the register with a few books. Some of the books in this man's pile are some of Lydia's favorite books. This man is Javier - charming, and also the boss of the new drug cartel, which gruesomely seized Acapulco. When Lydia's husband publishes a revealing profile of Javier, their lives will never be the same. Lydia and Luca flee Acapulco and are now migrants. The two ride la bestia, trains that will bring them to the United States. Lydia will encounter other migrants trying to get into the United States. She will learn that everyone is running from something, but what are they running to?

***Lost Children Archive* by Valeria Luiselli**

**FIC LUISELLI, VALERIA; Overdrive (ebook)**

A family drives from New York to Apacheria, Arizona. Apacheria was the place the Apaches once called home. During the car ride, the family plays games and sings along to music. On the radio, there is news about an immigration crisis. Thousands of children are trying to cross the southwestern border into the United States. Some of the children are getting detained or getting lost in the desert along the way. The family is beginning to experience their own crisis. One child can feel the tension building between the parents. The siblings cannot escape the adventure in the desert landscape and within their own imaginations.

***On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* by Ocean Vuong**

**FIC VUONG, OCEAN; Overdrive (ebook)**

*On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* is a letter from a son to his mother who cannot read. The son, Little Dog, wrote the letter in his late twenties. The letter, which reveals a family's history that goes back to Vietnam, explores the topics of race, class, and masculinity. The letter is as much about the power of telling one's own story as it is about the obliterating silence of not being heard.

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***Nothing to See Here* by Kevin Wilson**

**FIC WILSON, KEVIN; LP WILSON, KEVIN; Overdrive (ebook)**

Lillian and Madison were roommates and friends at their boarding school. Lillian abruptly left the school in light of a scandal and the two have not spoken since. One day, Lillian receives a letter from Madison asking her to be the caretaker of Madison's twin stepchildren. However, when the stepchildren are agitated, flames ignite from their skin. Lillian assumes that Madison is being comical, but Madison is being honest. Lillian decides to abandon her dead-end life at home to be the twins' caretaker. She and the twins learn to trust each other while staying out of the way of Madison's husband, who is a buttoned-up politician. Lillian begins to accept the fact that she needs the children as much as they need her.

***The Glass Hotel* by Emily St. John Mandel**

**FIC MANDEL, EMILY ST. JOHN; Overdrive (audiobook)**

Vincent is a bartender at the Hotel Caiette, a five-star lodging on the northernmost tip of Vancouver Island. On the night she meets Jonathan Alkaitis, a hooded figure scrawls a message on the lobby's glass wall: "Why don't you swallow broken glass." High above Manhattan, a greater crime is committed: Alkaitis is running an international Ponzi scheme, moving imaginary sums of money through clients' accounts. When the financial empire collapses, it obliterates countless fortunes and devastates lives. Vincent, who had been posing as Jonathan's wife, walks away into the night. Years later, a victim of the fraud is hired to investigate a strange occurrence: a woman has seemingly vanished from the deck of a container ship between ports of call.

***My Dark Vanessa* by Kate Elizabeth Russell**

**FIC RUSSELL, KATE ELIZABETH; Overdrive (audiobook)**

In 2000, fifteen-year-old Vanessa Wye was involved in an affair with her forty-two year old English teacher, Jacob Strane. In 2017, there is a wave of allegations against powerful men. Strane has been accused of sexual abuse by a former student who reaches out to Vanessa. Vanessa has to decide to either remain silent, which means to believe her teenage self was willingly engaged in the relationship, or redefine herself and the events of her past. Can Vanessa reject her first love?

***Darling Rose Gold* by Stephanie Wrobel**

**FIC WROBEL, STEPHANIE**

Rose Gold Watts believed she was ill for the first eighteen years of her life. She was allergic to everything, moved around in a wheelchair, and was always at the hospital. Her neighbors held fundraisers and offered emotional support for Rose. Her doctors, test results, and surgeries could not diagnose her illness. Her mother, Patty Watts, is a good liar who served five years in prison. When Patty gets out of prison, she begs her daughter to take her in. Rose allows her mother to stay with her, which shocks the entire community. Patty has forgiven her daughter for turning her in and testifying against her. The thing that Patty does not know is that Rose is no longer weak, and she is waiting for Patty to come home.

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***Afterlife* by Julia Alvarez**

**FIC ALVAREZ, JULIA; Hoopla (ebook)**

Antonia Vega, an immigrant writer, has had her life turned upside down. Having been a college English professor, she had recently retired when her husband, Sam, suddenly dies. Her sister suddenly disappears also. One evening, Antonia comes home to find a pregnant, undocumented teenager sitting on her doorstep. Antonia used to find direction in the literature she loves. She used to play lines from her favorite authors in her head. Now, she realizes that the world needs more of her than words.

***Big Summer* by Jennifer Weiner**

**FIC WEINER, JENNIFER**

Six years after the fight that ended their friendship, Daphne Berg is stunned when Drue Cavanaugh waltzes back into her life. Daphne has not spoken to Drue since their breakup, and she has not followed her on social media. Drue asks if Daphne will be her maid of honor at the society wedding of the summer. Drue was always the one who had everything, but she was not able to hold onto friends. Daphne has a life that she loves, and a growing career as a plus size Instagram influencer. Allowing Drue back into her life is risky; however, she would be able to spend a weekend in a waterfront Cape Cod mansion. Drue begs her to attend the society wedding and tells her about how there will be cute single guys there. Daphne finds it difficult to turn down her friend's invitation.

**Mystery/Thriller/Suspense**

***Mr. Nobody* by Catherine Steadman**

**FIC STEADMAN, CATHERINE; PLA STEADMAN, CATHERINE**

A man is found on a British beach, drifting in and out of consciousness. He does not have any form of identification and cannot speak. The hospital staff is drawn to him. International medical experts are perplexed by him. The national press refers to this man as Mr. Nobody. Dr. Emma Lewis, a neuropsychiatrist, is asked to assess the unknown man, and this case could make her name known across the world. But the last time Emma left that town was fourteen years ago, and she has taken great pains to cover all traces of her past since then. Paranoia grows as she spends more time with her patient. How does the patient know the one thing about her that no one else knows?

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***Camino Winds* by John Grisham**

**FIC GRISHAM, JOHN**

The hurricane destroyed homes, condos, hotels and storefronts. The streets were flooded and a dozen people lost their lives. One of the apparent victims is Nelson Kerr, a friend of Bruce's and an author of thrillers. Nelson's injuries were not caused by the storm because he suffered several suspicious blows to the head. The local police are overwhelmed in the aftermath of the storm and are unable to handle the case. Bruce begins to wonder if the characters in Nelson's novels are real and not fictional. On Nelson's computer there is a manuscript of his new novel. Bruce begins to investigate and what he finds between the lines is more shocking than any of Nelson's plot twists.

***Walk the Wire* by David Baldacci**

**FIC BALDACCI, DAVID; Overdrive (ebook)**

Two FBI agents, Amos Decker and Alex Jamison, are called to London, North Dakota. They sense trouble in the fracking town. The promise of a second gold rush has caused the community to grow faster than they can build houses. The influx has brought problems to the community like drugs, property crimes, prostitution, and now, murder. Decker and Jamison are ordered to investigate the death of Irene Cramer. Irene's body was autopsied and then dumped in the open. Decker and Jamison will discover that Irene was a prostitute and a teacher for a local religious sect. The religious sect is operating on land once owned by a mysterious government facility that looms over the entire community.

**Historical Fiction**

***City of Girls* by Elizabeth Gilbert**

**FIC GILBERT, ELIZABETH; LP GILBERT, ELIZABETH; Overdrive (ebook & audiobook)**

In 1940, nineteen-year-old Vivian Morris has been kicked out of Vassar College due to her academic performance. Her parents send her to live with her Aunt Peg in Manhattan. Aunt Peg owns Lily Playhouse, a theater in midtown. At Lily Playhouse, Vivian meets a wide array of characters, from fun showgirls to a no-nonsense stage manager. Vivian makes a personal mistake, which results in a professional scandal. It will take her years to understand the effects of her mistake. She will realize the kind of life she was searching for and the kind of freedom it takes to achieve it. This will also lead her to find the love of her life.

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***The Water Dancer* by Ta-Nehisi Coates**

**FIC COATES, TA-NEHISI; Overdrive (ebook & audiobook), RBdigital (ebook)**

Hiram Walker was born into slavery. He was robbed of all memory of his mother when she was sold away. However, Hiram was gifted a mysterious power. Years later, he almost drowns in a river; the mysterious power saves his life. Living on borrowed time, he decides to escape from the only home he has ever known. He leaves the corrupt Virginia plantation and heads to the wilderness. During his travel, he enlists in the underground war between the plantation owners and the enslaved. Through it all, he is determined to save the family he left behind.

***The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett**

**FIC PATCHETT, ANN; ACD PATCHETT, ANN; Overdrive (ebook & audiobook), RBdigital (ebook)**

At the end of World War II, Cyril Conroy made an investment to create a real estate empire. Cyril's fortune allowed him to get his family out of poverty and to great wealth. His first order of business is to buy the Dutch House, a lavish estate located in the suburbs outside of Philadelphia. The purchase of the Dutch House sets in motion the undoing of everyone he loves. The story is told by Danny, Cyril's son, as he and his older sister, Maeve, are kicked out of the house by their stepmother. The two siblings are now living in the poverty that their parents had escaped from. Danny and Maeve only have each other to count on. The bond they create in this dire situation is what saves their lives and hinders their future.

***Mrs. Everything* by Jennifer Weiner**

**FIC WEINER, JENNIFER; ACD WEINER, JENNIFER; Overdrive (ebook & audiobook), RBdigital (audiobook)**

Growing up in Detroit in the 1950s, Jo and Bethie Kaufman lived in the ideal "Dick and Jane" house. Their roles in the family were defined. Jo was the tomboy with a passion to make the world fairer. Bethie was the pretty one who dreamt of a traditional life. The sisters survive traumas and tragedies. Bethie becomes an adventure-loving wild child who is into the counterculture. Jo becomes a young mother in Connecticut and watches the world change instead of being a participant. Jo and Bethie are not living the life they dreamed of, or a life that brings them joy. Is it too late for the women to live the life they once wanted?

***Deacon King Kong* by James McBride**

**FIC McBRIDE, JAMES**

In September 1969, an old church deacon, known as Sportcoat, goes into the courtyard of the Cause Houses, a housing project in south Brooklyn. In front of everyone, Sportcoat draws a .38 caliber from his pocket and shoots the project's drug dealer at point-blank range. Sportcoat is unknowingly able to dodge the police. His action leads to drug wars, backdoor dealings with mobsters, and brawls erupting at church. This is a broader story of race and religion, getting by and getting out, and how feuds and alliances are mingled in our neighborhoods.

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***Rodham* by Curtis Sittenfeld**

Hillary Rodham is attending Yale Law School; she is on the forefront of student activism and the women's rights movement. She meets a handsome, charismatic southerner and fellow law student named Bill Clinton. The two find an intellectual, emotional, and physical connection that neither has experienced before. Hillary follows Bill back to Arkansas, and Bill proposes to Hillary, which leads to her breaking up with him. Over the next four decades, Hillary finds a new path, on which she will again encounter Bill Clinton.

***The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd**

**FIC KIDD, SUE MONK; Overdrive (ebook & audiobook)**

Ana was raised in a wealthy family in Sepphoris with ties to the ruler of Galilee. She defies the expectations placed on women and secretly engages in scholarly pursuits. She writes secret narratives about neglected and silenced women. She meets an eighteen year old Jesus; the two are drawn to and enriched by the other's spiritual and philosophical ideas. Their marriage unfolds with love and conflict. Ana makes a home with Jesus in Nazareth, where his brothers, James and Simon, and their mother, Mary, live. Ana's pent-up anger intensifies when there is resistance to the Roman occupation of Israel. She is sustained by her aunt Yaltha, who is searching for her long-lost daughter as well as other women and her friend Tabitha. Ana is eventually forced to flee Nazareth before Jesus's public ministry begins. She makes her way with Yaltha to Alexandria, where they find refuge and purpose.

**Romance**

***Red, White, and Royal Blue* by Casey McQuiston**

**FIC McQUISTON, CASEY; Overdrive (ebook & audiobook)**

Alex Claremont-Diaz's mother is the President of the United States. Alex is considered to be the American equivalent of a young royal. He is handsome, charismatic, and intelligent; therefore, his image is ideal for the White House. However, Alex does not get along with Prince Henry. The tabloids obtain a photo of an altercation between Alex and Henry, and the relationship between the US and Britain takes a turn for the worse. The families stage a truce between the two rivals in order to ease the tension. Alex and Henry develop a relationship after the staged truce. Soon Alex will find himself in a secret romance with Henry that can destroy the presidential campaign and upend the two nations.

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**Science Fiction/ Fantasy**

***Ninth House* by Leigh Bardugo**

**SF BARDUGO, LEIGH; Overdrive (ebook & audiobook)**

Galaxy “Alex” Stern was raised in the Los Angeles hinterlands by a hippie mom. Alex dropped out of school early and into a world of drug dealer boyfriends, dead end jobs, and worse. When she is twenty, she survives an unsolved multiple homicide. At the hospital, she is offered a full ride scholarship to Yale. But, she has to monitor the activities of Yale’s secret societies. The eight windowless ‘tombs’ are known to be haunts of the future rich and powerful. The activities of the Yale’s secret societies are more sinister and extraordinary than anyone can imagine.

***Exhalation* by Ted Chiang**

**SF CHIANG, TED**

This collection of short stories contains revelatory ideas and sympathetic characters. The story, “The Merchant and the Alchemist’s Gate”, is about a fabric seller in ancient Baghdad who travels back in time to confront past mistakes and the temptation of second chances. In “Exhalation”, an alien scientist makes a shocking discovery that could be consequential for all of reality. In “The Lifecycle of Software Objects”, for twenty years a woman cares for an updated digital fad pet which might be a living being.

***The City We Became* by N.K. Jemisin**

**SF JEMISIN, N.K.**

This novel envisions cities as living entities, which are “born” into human avatars. An enemy lurks, ready to destroy newborn cities on the cusp of coming into their power. New York City is embodied by a young black man living on the streets. The enemy goes after those most

dangerous to him, the police. The New York avatar falls into a coma and vanishes after overexerting himself by fighting off the enemy. The avatars from each of the five Burroughs claim their own avatars that need to find one another to stamp out the enemy’s infectious presence.

***Chosen Ones* by Veronica Roth**

**SF ROTH, VERONICA; Overdrive (ebook)**

A decade ago near Chicago, five teenagers defeated the Dark One, whose reign of terror brought widespread destruction and death. The five heroic teenagers- Sloane, Matt, Ines, Albie, and Esther- were brought together by a clandestine government agency because one of them was fated to be the “Chosen One”. Ten years later, the world has moved on and a younger generation does not recollect the days of fear. But Sloane finds it impossible to forget those days. The paparazzi would haunt her every step like how the Dark One haunts her dreams. She has not moved on. She has no direction, goals, and purpose. On the eve of the Ten Year Celebration of Peace, one of their own is found dead. At the funeral, they discover that the Dark One’s reign is not over.

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***The Testaments* by Margaret Atwood**

**FIC ATWOOD, MARGARET; ACD ATWOOD, MARGARET; Overdrive (audiobook)**

More than fifteen years after the events of *The Handmaid's Tale*, the theocratic regime of the Republic of Gilead maintains its grip on power, but there are signs it is beginning to rot from within. At this crucial moment, the lives of three radically different women converge, with potentially explosive results. Two have grown up as part of the first generation to come of age in the new order. The testimonies of these two young women are joined by a third: Aunt Lydia. Her complex past and uncertain future unfold in surprising and pivotal ways. With *The Testaments*, Margaret Atwood opens up the innermost workings of Gilead, as each woman is forced to come to terms with who she is, and how far she will go for what she believes.

**Nonfiction**

***Hidden Valley Road* by Robert Kolker**

**616.898 KOLKER, ROBERT; Overdrive (ebook)**

After World War II, Don's work with the Air Force brought him and his wife, Mimi Galvin, to Colorado. Don and Mimi had twelve children, the oldest born in 1945, and the youngest in 1965. During those years, the Galvins had a script for the family: aspiration, hard work, upward mobility, and domestic harmony. What people did not see was a different story: psychological breakdown, sudden shocking violence, and hidden abuse. By the mid- 1970s, six of the ten Galvin boys were diagnosed as schizophrenic. The Galvins become one of the first families to be studied by the National Institute of Mental Health. Their story offers a shadow history of the science of schizophrenia during the time of institutionalization and lobotomy. Without the knowledge of the Galvins, samples of their DNA informed decades of genetic research that continues today, offering paths to treatment, prediction, and even eradication of the disease for future generations.

***Three Women* by Lisa Taddeo**

**306.708 TADDEO, LISA; Overdrive (ebook & audiobook), RBdigital (ebook &audiobook)**

Based on years of immersive reporting, *Three Women* has been hailed as "a dazzling achievement" (*Los Angeles Times*) and "riveting page-turner that explores desire, heartbreak, and infatuation in all its messy, complicated nuance" (*The Washington Post*).

Lina is a homemaker and mother of two. Her marriage, after a decade, has lost its passion. Lina battles daily panic attacks due to the lack of affection. After reconnecting with an old flame through social media, she embarks on an affair that quickly becomes obsessive. In North Dakota, Maggie is a seventeen year old high school student who allegedly has a secret relationship with her married English teacher. The English teacher's criminal trial will turn the quiet town upside down. In the Northeast, Sloane is a gorgeous, successful, and refined restaurant owner. She is happily married to a man who likes to watch her being intimate with others.

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***The Splendid and the Vile* by Erik Larson**

**940.542121 LARSON, ERIK; ACD 940.54 LARSON, ERIK; Overdrive (ebook & audiobook)**

On Winston Churchill's first day as prime minister, Holland and Belgium were invaded by Adolf Hitler. The evacuation of Dunkirk would occur in two weeks. Poland and Czechoslovakia had collapsed. Hitler would wage a bombing campaign, killing 45,000 Britons. Churchill needs to unite his country and convince President Franklin Roosevelt that Britain would be a worthy ally. This book provides a new perspective on London's darkest year, as well as the day-to-day experiences of Churchill and his family.

**Memoir**

***Wild Game* by Adrienne Brodeur**

**MEM BRODEUR, ADRIENNE; Hoopla (ebook), Overdrive (ebook)**

When Adrienne was fourteen, her mother, Malabar, woke her at midnight to tell her that Ben Souther had just kissed her. This event would change their lives for years to come. Adrienne is now her mother's confidante and helpmate. Malabar relies on her daughter to help organize an affair with her husband's close friend. The affair would have catastrophic consequences for everyone involved. Adrienne will lie to justify her actions. Her marriage will eventually fall apart, which leads her into depression. Years later, she will find the strength to accept her life and her mother, but on her own terms.

***Uncanny Valley* by Anna Wiener**

**MEM WIENER, ANNA**

In Anna Wiener's mid-twenties, at the height of tech industry idealism, she is stuck, broke, and seeking meaning in her work. She leaves a job in book publishing and moves from New York to San Francisco, where she lands at a big data startup in the heart of the Silicon Valley bubble. Anna Wiener's memoir is a first-person glimpse into highflying, reckless startup culture, unregulated surveillance, wild fortune, and political power. Anna documents the industry's shift from self-appointed world savior to democracy-endangering liability, along with her personal narrative of aspiration, ambivalence, and disillusionment.