

SUMMER READING 2024

NVPL RECOMMENDED READING LIST FOR ADULTS

Adult Fiction

Chakraborty, Shannon. *The Adventures of Amina al-Sirafi.* Bestselling author of *The City of Brass* spins a new trilogy of magic and mayhem on the high seas in this tale of pirates and sorcerers, forbidden artifacts and ancient mysteries, in one woman's determined quest to seize a final chance at glory—and write her own legend.

Cussler, Clive. The prolific author and adventurer created several captivating series and standalone novels. Cussler's novels often blend adventure, history, and intrigue, making them thrilling reads for fans of action-packed stories. His most notable series are Dirk Pitt, NUMA Files, Oregon Files. His characters live on with others writing for the late writer.

Dumas, Alexander. This celebrated French author is renowned for his swashbuckling adventure novels. His works epitomize the genre, delivering non-stop action, heroism, and honor. Let's delve into some of his most famous adventure tales: *Three Musketeers* and *The Count of Monte Cristo*.

Grissom, Kathleen. *Crow Mary.* The New York Times bestselling author returns with a sweeping saga inspired by the true story of Crow Mary—an indigenous woman torn between two worlds in 19th-century North America. *Crow Mary* sweeps across decades and the landscape of the upper West and Canada, showcasing the beauty of the natural world, while at the same time probing the intimacies of a married one woman's heart.

Classic

Gyasi, Yaa. *Homegoing.* Two half-sisters, Effia and Esi, are born into different villages in 18th c Ghana. Effia is married off to an Englishman and lives in comfort in the palatial rooms of Cape Coast Castle. Unbeknownst to Effia, her sister, Esi, is imprisoned beneath her in the castle's dungeons, sold and shipped off to America. One thread follows Effia's descendants through centuries of warfare in Ghana while the other thread follows Esi and her children into America.

Roberts, Gregory David. *Shantaram.* This captivating novel follows the journey of Lindsay Ford, an Australian bank robber and heroin addict who escapes from Pentridge Prison and flees to India. Set in Bombay during the early to late 1980s, the novel vividly portrays life in the bustling city. Roberts' semi-autobiographical tale weaves adventure, love, and redemption, making "Shantaram" a must-read for anyone seeking an immersive literary journey.

Tolkien, J.R.R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* trilogy and *The Hobbit* are timeless fantasy classics. Embark on an epic quest to destroy the One Ring and defeat the Dark Lord Sauron in *The Lord of the Rings*. The prequel, *The Hobbit*, introduces Bilbo Baggins on an unexpected adventure filled with whimsy, dragons, and riddles. Both series offer rich storytelling, unforgettable characters, and a magical escape into Middle-earth!

Classic



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Adventure

BEGINS AT THE LIBRARY

Adult Nonfiction

Grann, David. *The Wager: A tale of shipwreck, mutiny and murder.* From the author of *Killers of the Flower Moon*, a page-turning story of shipwreck, survival, and savagery, culminating in a court martial that reveals a shocking truth. The powerful narrative reveals the deeper meaning of the events on *The Wager*, showing that it was not only the captain and crew who ended up on trial, but the very idea of empire.

Hinchman, Hannah. *A Trail Through Leaves: The Journal as a Path to Place.* The blank pages of a journal are a call to awaken the soul, to celebrate being alive in the world, to get to know both the wilderness of our inmost selves and the "unpredictable and potent" natural world. In the richly illustrated pages of this book, Hinchman unfolds a myriad of wonders and shows us how to capture them on the page. Hinchman's respect for the miracle of our five senses, and her passion for what they can tell us about the world, is contagious. Even for one who has no intention of journal-keeping, to delve into Hinchman's own work is to see with new eyes. *A Trail Through Leaves* is a true gift and inspiration, a treasure-box of ways to write, draw, and be alive to the world

Klinenberg, Eric. *Palaces for the People: How social infrastructure can help fight inequality, polarization, and the decline of civic life.* We are living in a time of deep divisions. Americans are sorting themselves along racial, religious, and cultural lines, leading to a level of polarization that the country hasn't seen since the Civil War. Pundits and politicians are calling for us to come together and find common purpose. But how, exactly, can this be done? Klinenberg believes that the future of democratic societies rests not simply on shared values but on shared spaces: the libraries, childcare centers, churches, and parks where crucial connections are formed. Richly reported and ultimately uplifting, *Palaces for the People* offers a blueprint for bridging our seemingly unbridgeable divides.

Larson, Erik. *Dead Wake: the last crossing of the Lusitania.*

On May 1, 1915, with WWI entering its tenth month, a luxury ocean liner as richly appointed as an English country house sailed out of New York, bound for Liverpool, carrying a record number of children and infants. The passengers were surprisingly at ease, even though Germany had declared the seas around Britain to be a war zone. For months, German U-boats had brought terror to the North Atlantic. But the *Lusitania* was one of the era's great transatlantic "Greyhounds"--the fastest liner then in service--and her captain, William Thomas Turner, placed tremendous faith in the gentlemanly strictures of warfare that for a century had kept civilian ships safe from attack.

Wolfe, Tom. *The Right Stuff.* This book explores the lives and experiences of the first Project Mercury astronauts selected for the NASA space program in the 1960s. The book delves into the personal and professional lives of these astronauts, highlighting their courage, competitiveness, and the immense pressure they faced. Tom Wolfe's captivating narrative captures the true heroism and courage of the first Americans to conquer space.

Adventure
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