

Fresh Lit!

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LibraryLinkNJ Webinar

July 10, 2013

Books we'll talk about today— literary fiction

- Recent and forthcoming
- Publicized and not...
- Well-reviewed
- First novels
- New novels by favorite authors
- Titles for reading groups
- Titles with YA appeal

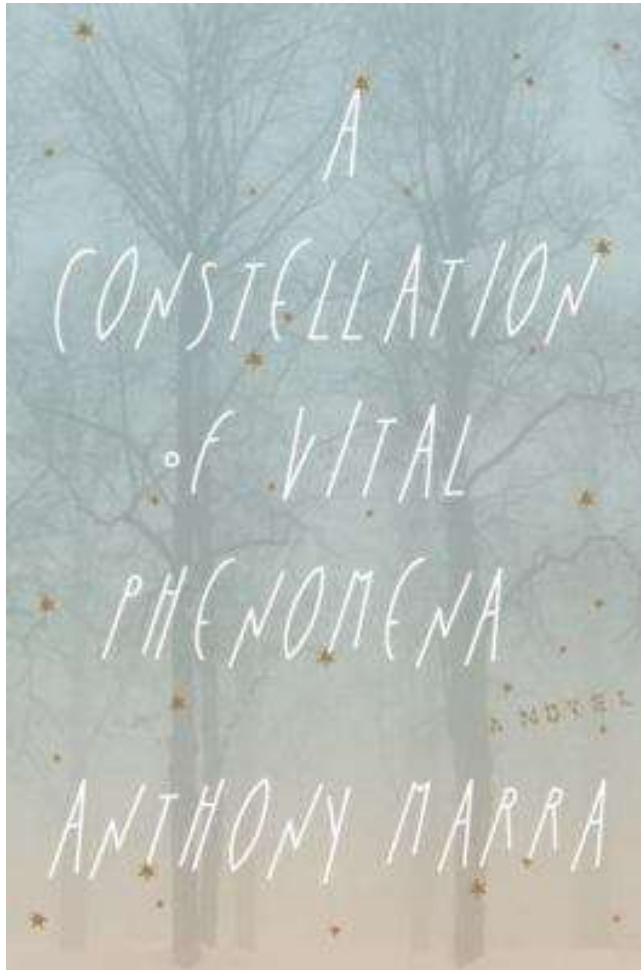


THE BIG LITERARY BOOKS

The ones we probably don't
need to talk about today

- ***The First Phone Call From Heaven***, Mitchell Albom. Nov.
- ***Survival Lessons***, Alice Hoffman (memoir). Oct.
- ***Valley of Amazement***, Amy Tan. Nov.
- ***MaddAdam***, Margaret Atwood. Sept.
- ***The Signature of All Things***, Elizabeth Gilbert.

A Constellation of Vital Phenomena by Anthony Marra



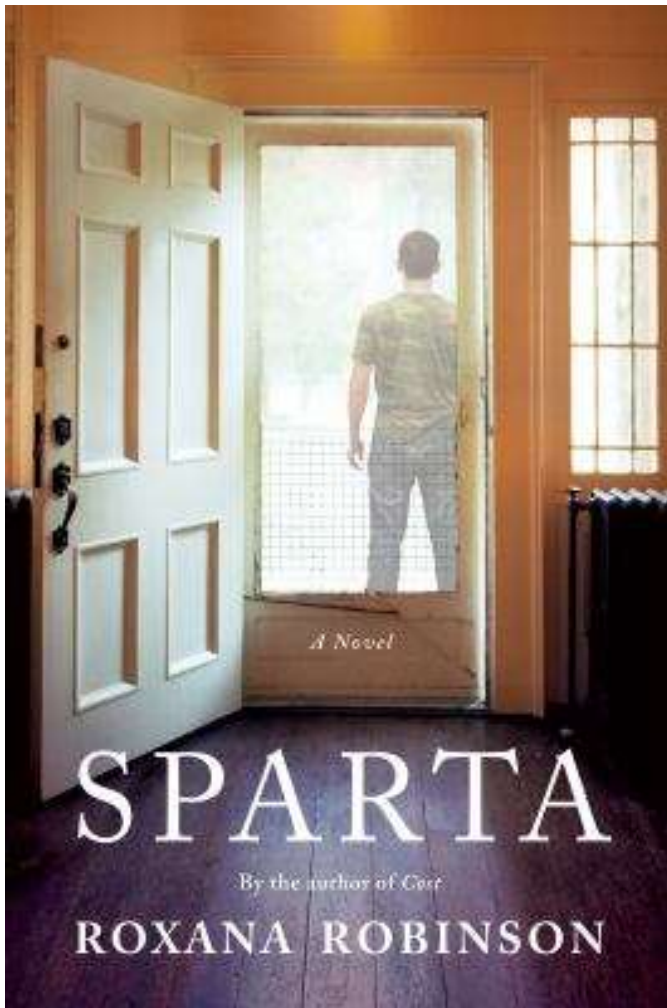
May 2013, Hogarth/Wm. Morrow

First novel

Appeal: story, character, writing, setting.

Themes: Chechnya; social issues, complex structure; guilt; loss; redemption; book groups

Sparta by Roxana Robinson



June 2013, Farrar, Straus & Giroux

Previous: ***Cost***

Appeal: character; story; writing.

Themes: returning soldiers; PTSD; psychological study; leisurely pacing; family relationships; *book groups

THE BIG LITERARY BOOKS

Additional suggestions

- ***Americanah***, Chimamanda, Ngozi Adichie, May 2013
- ***Dissident Gardens***, Jonathan Lethem, Sept 2013.
- ***Necessary Errors***, Caleb Crain, Aug 2013
- ***Transatlantic***, Colum McCann, June 2013
- ***Dirty Love***, Andre Dubus III, Oct. 2013

FAMILY AND DOMESTIC DRAMA

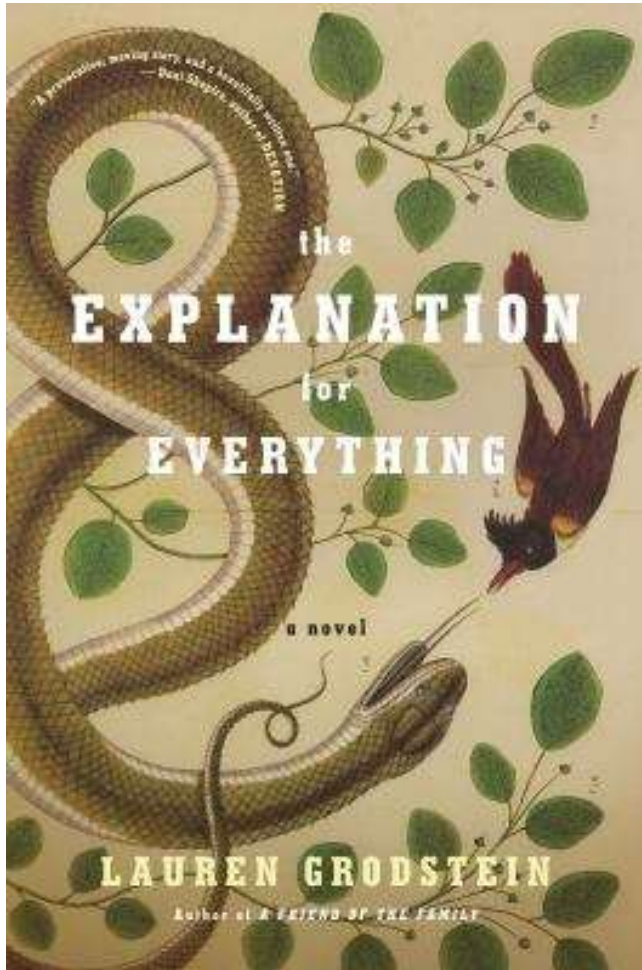
The Explanation for Everything by Lauren Grodstein

Sept. 2013; Algonquin
Books

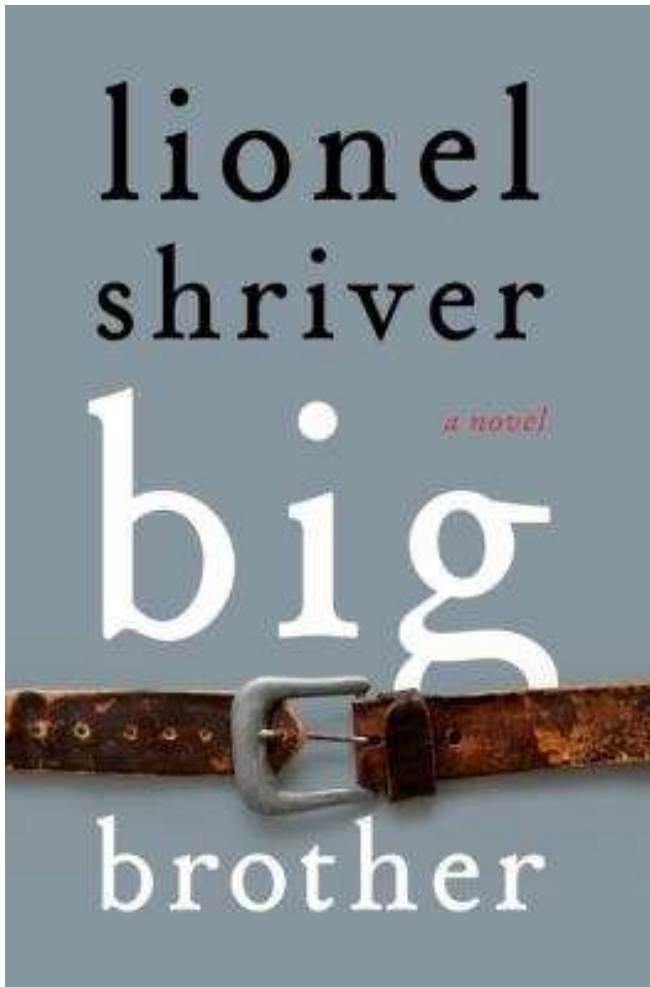
Previous: ***A Friend of the Family***; NJ author

Appeal: story; characters

Themes: faith vs science;
family relationships; *book
groups, YA



Big Brother by Lionel Shriver



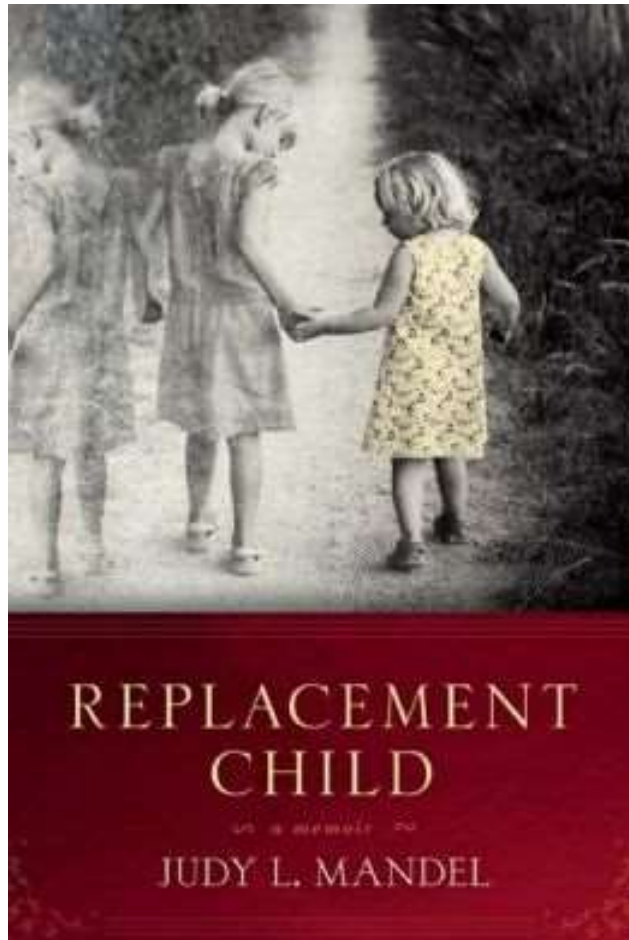
July 16, 2013; Harper

Previous novel: ***We Need to Talk About Kevin***

Appeal: story; character.

Themes: Sibling relationships; family responsibility; YA, *book groups

Replacement Child: A Memoir by Judy L. Mandel



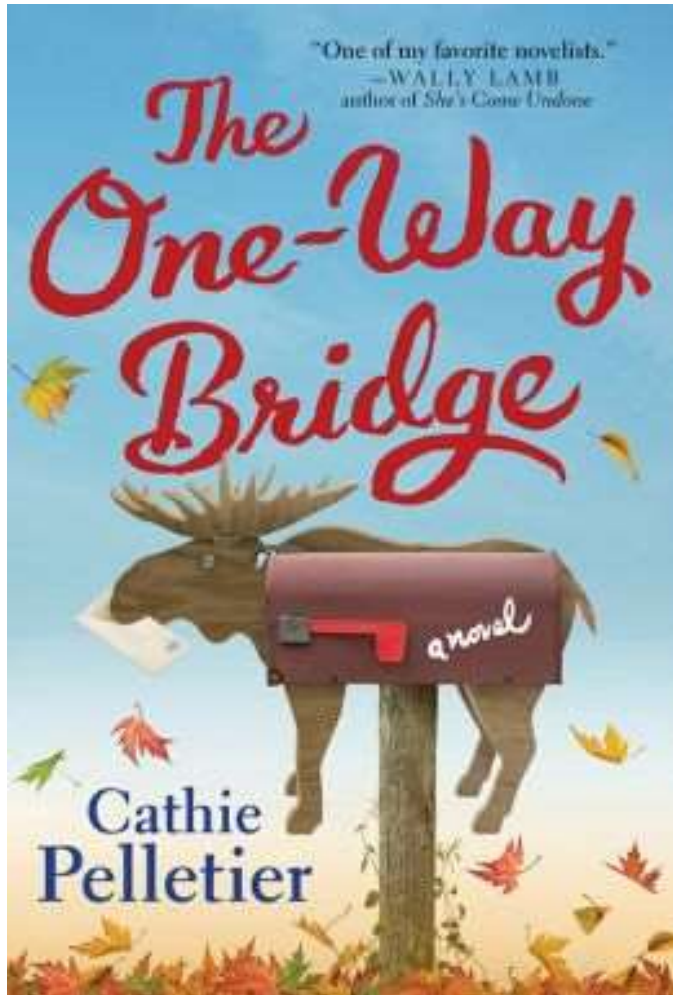
March 2013; Seal Press

NJ author; small press

Appeal: story, character,
writing.

Themes: NJ history;
interesting structure; family
secrets; *book groups, YA

One-Way Bridge by Cathie Pelletier



May 2012, Sourcebooks

Previous book: ***Running the Bulls***

Appeal: story, setting,
dry humor

Themes: small-town life;
Maine; eccentricity;
loneliness

Family and domestic drama

Additional suggestions

- ***Is This Tomorrow***, Caroline Leavitt, May 2013
- ***The Last Summer of the Camperdowns***, Elizabeth Kelly, June 2013
- ***The Burgess Boys*** Elizabeth Strout, March 2013
- ***We Are Water***, Wally Lamb, Oct. 2013
- ***The Innocents***, Francesca Segal, May 2013
- ***The Husband's Secret***, Liane Moriarty, July 2013

WOMEN'S LIVES, SISTERS, MARRIAGE

Sisterland by Curtis Sittenfeld



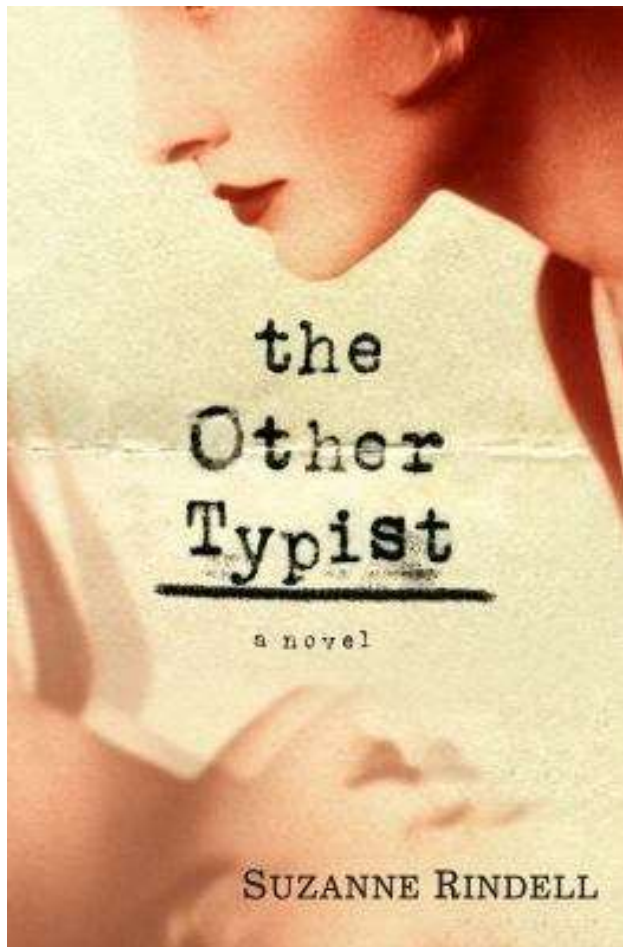
June, 2013; Random House

Previous: ***Prep, American Wife***; critical attention

Appeal: character, story

Themes: Sibling relationships; life choices; YA; book groups

The Other Typist by Suzanne Rindell



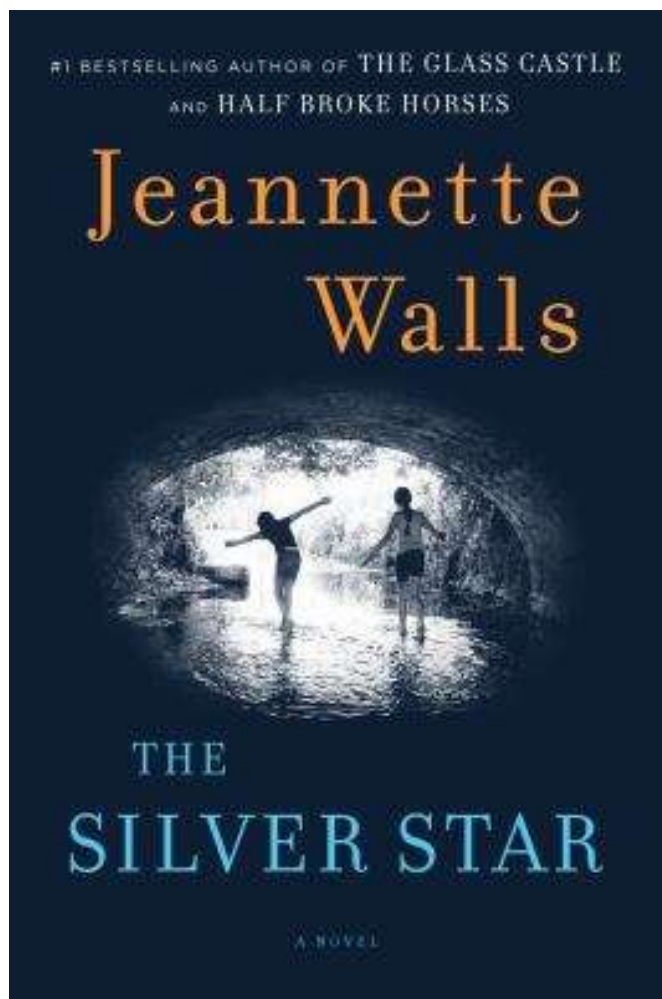
May 2013; Amy
Einhorn/Penguin

First novel

Appeal: character and
setting.

Themes: unreliable narrator;
1920s; women's lives;
psychological study;
ambiguity; book groups; YA

The Silver Star by Jeannette Walls



June 2013; Scribner

Previous: memoir ***The Glass Castle***

Appeal: story, character.

Themes: sisters;
dysfunctional families; similar
to her memoir; book groups;
YA

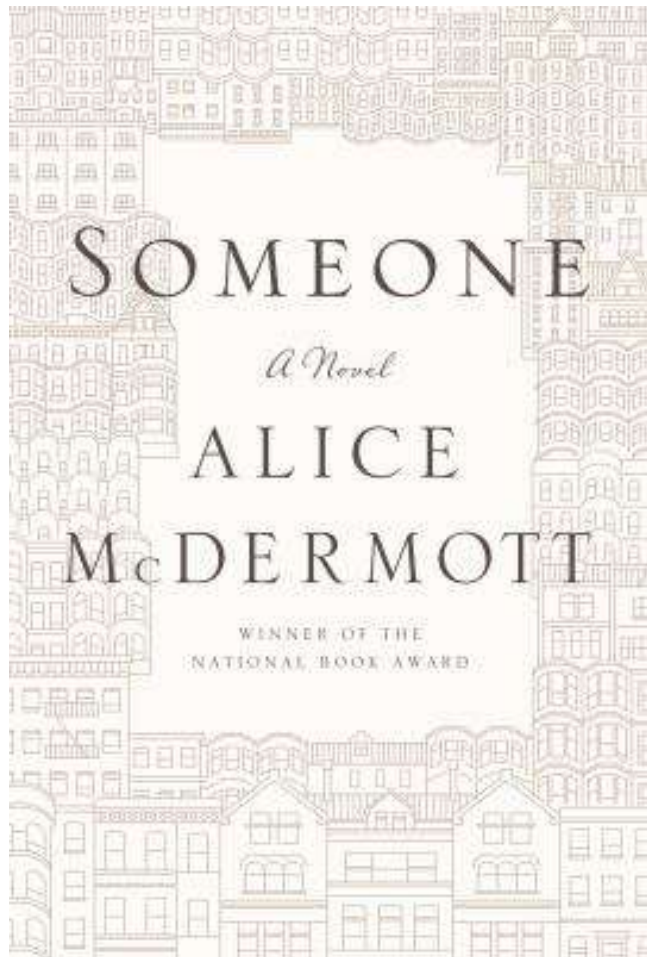
WOMEN'S LIVES/SISTERS/MARRIAGE

Additional suggestions

- ***The Yonahlossee Riding Camp for Girls,*** Anton DiSclefani. June, 2013
- ***The Obituary Writer,*** Ann Hood. Oct. 2013
- ***The Interestings,*** Meg Wolitzer. April, 2013
- ***You Are One of Them,*** Elliott Holt. May, 2013
- ***The Longings of Wayward Girls,*** Karen Brown. July, 2013

COMING OF AGE STORIES

Someone by Alice McDermott



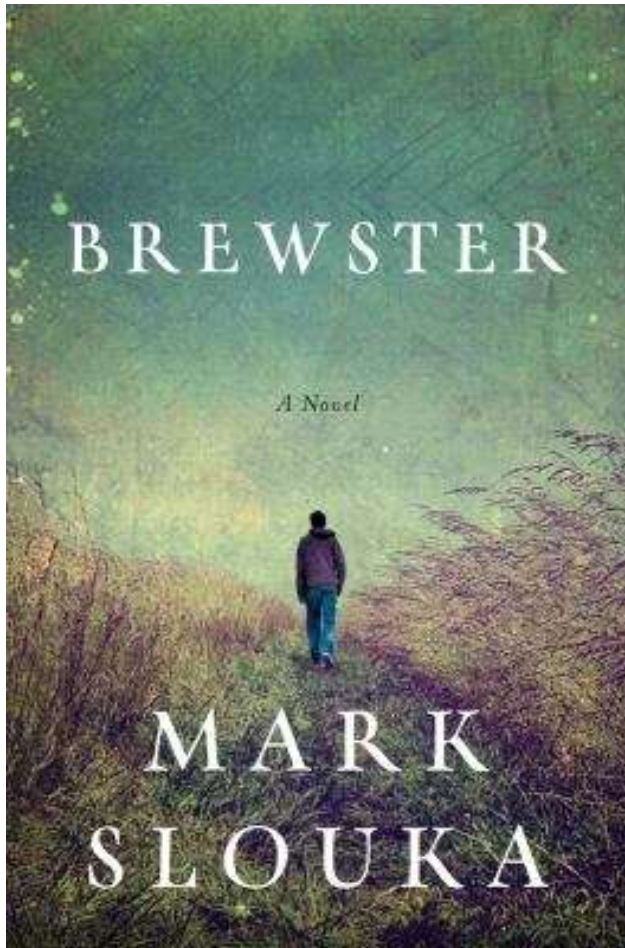
Sept., 2013; Farrar, Straus & Giroux

Previous: ***Charming Billy***

Appeal: setting and character.

Themes: 1950s Brooklyn;
psychological insight;
leisurely paced but
absorbing; interesting
structure; book groups

Brewster by Mark Slouka



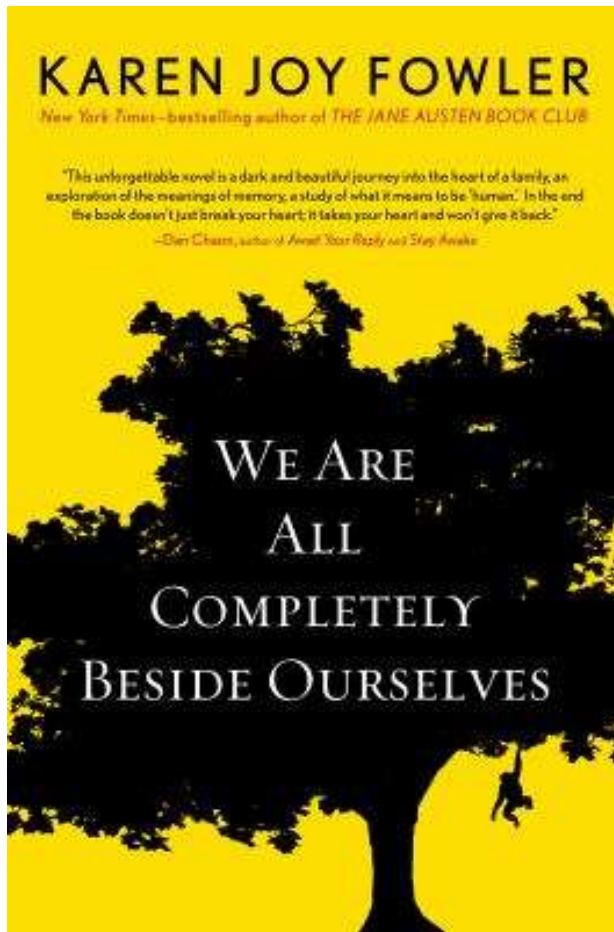
Aug., 2013; W.W. Norton

First novel

Appeal: story, character, tone.

Theme: Edgy, noirish; strong 1960s setting; dysfunctional families; YA

We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves by Karen Joy Fowler



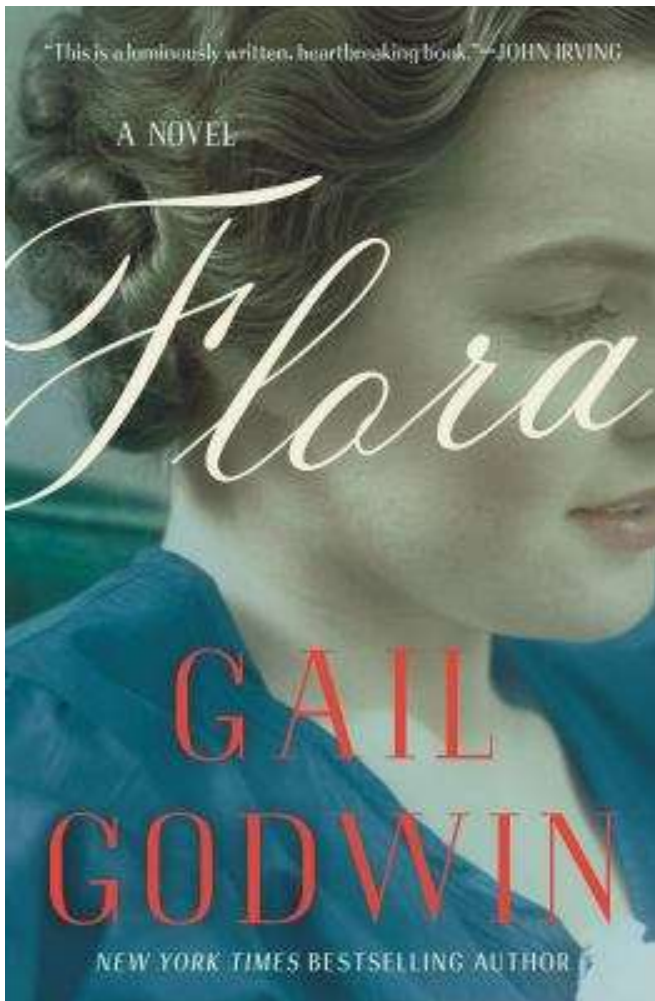
May 2013, Putnam

Previous: ***The Jane Austen Book Club***

Appeal: character and writing.

Themes: Human/animal bond; family secrets; siblings; animal rights; *book groups; YA

Flora by Gail Godwin



May, 2013; Bloomsbury

Previous: ***Unfinished Desires***; many previous; critical attention

Appeal: story, setting.

Themes: 1940s South; family relationships; YA interest—unreliable teenage narrator; book groups

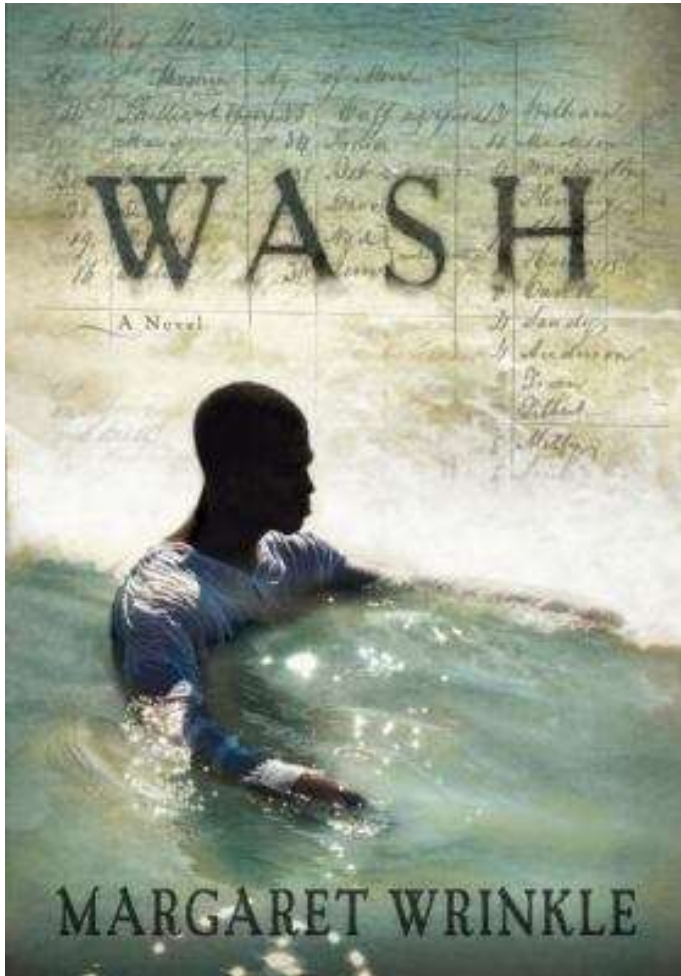
COMING OF AGE STORIES

Additional suggestions

- ***Ordinary Grace***, William Kent Krueger, Atria, Mar., 2013
- ***Whistling Past the Graveyard***, Susan Crandall, July, 2013.

HISTORICAL FICTION

Wash by Margaret Wrinkle



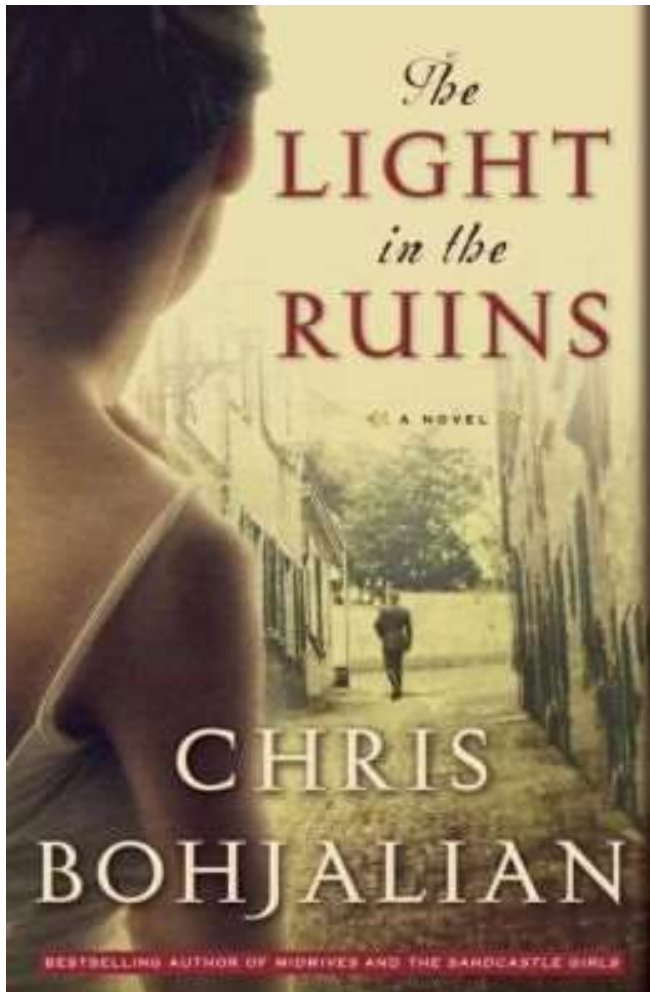
Feb. 2013; Grove/Atlantic

First novel

Appeal: character; setting;
story; writing

Themes: slavery--effects on
whites and blacks; Southern
history; sexual abuse;
*book groups

The Light in the Ruins by Chris Bohjalian



July, 2013; Knopf/Doubleday

Previous: ***Sandcastle Girls***,
many others

Appeal: story, characters,
setting (Tuscany), fast-
paced

Themes: WWII; war crimes;
murder mystery; revenge;
romance; book groups

HISTORICAL FICTION

Additional suggestions

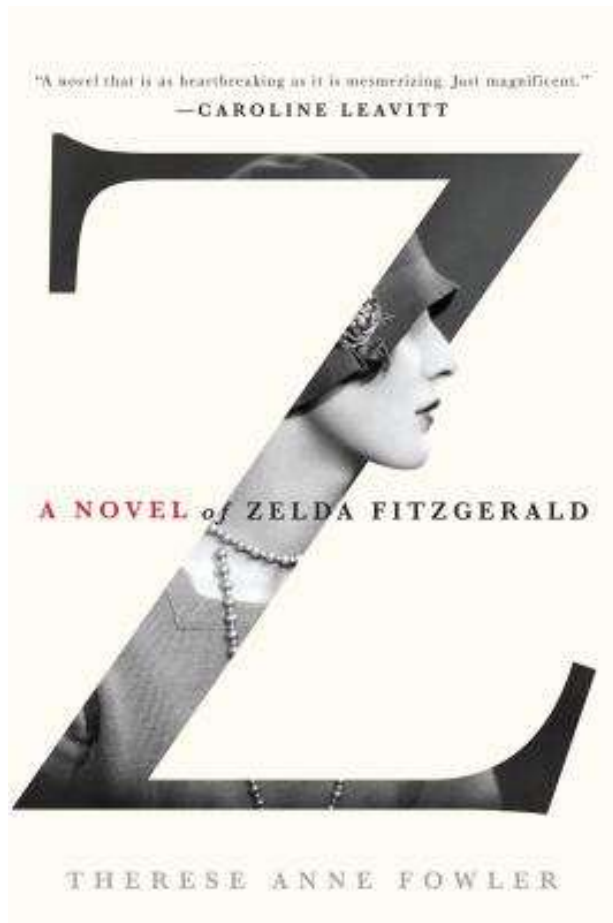
- ***House Girl***, Tara Conklin, Oct., 2013
- ***Palisades Park***, Alan Brennert, Apr., 2013
- ***Orphan Train***, Christina Baker Kline, Apr., 2013
- ***The Son***, Philipp Meyer, May, 2013
- ***Blood and Beauty: The Borgias***, Sarah Dunant, July, 2013
- ***Songs of Willow Frost***, Jamie Ford, Sept., 2013
- ***Transatlantic***, Colum McCann, June, 2013

HISTORICAL FICTION---

REAL CHARACTERS

Z

by Theresa Ann Fowler



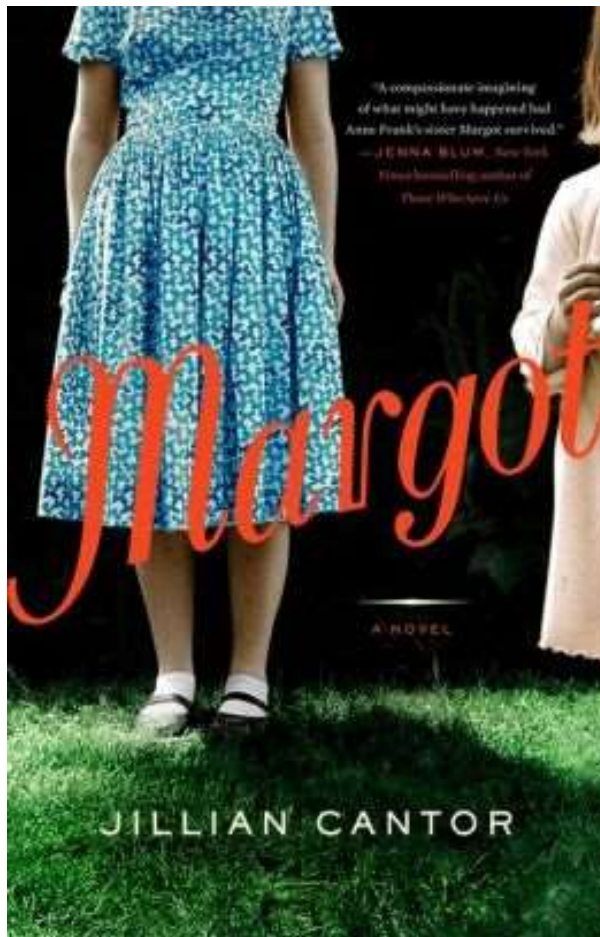
March, 2013; St. Martin's

Debut novel

Appeal: character, story,
setting

Themes: historical fiction
based on real lives; strong
historical setting with colorful
detail; breezy, engaging
writing; book groups

Margot by Jillian Cantor



Sept., 2013; Riverhead

Previous: ***The Transformation of Things***

Appeal: character, setting

Themes: what-if historical fiction; Jewish interest; Holocaust; women's lives in the 1950s; *book groups; YA

HISTORICAL FICTION--REAL CHARACTERS

...More suggestions

- ***Call Me Zelda***, Erika Robuck, Mar., 2013
- ***Guests on Earth***, Lee Smith, Oct., 2013 (about Zelda Fitzgerald)
- ***Mrs. Poe***, Lynn Cullen, Sept., 2013
- ***Havisham***, Ronald Frame, Nov., 2013 (character from ***Great Expectations***)

HISTORICAL FICTION---REAL CHARACTERS

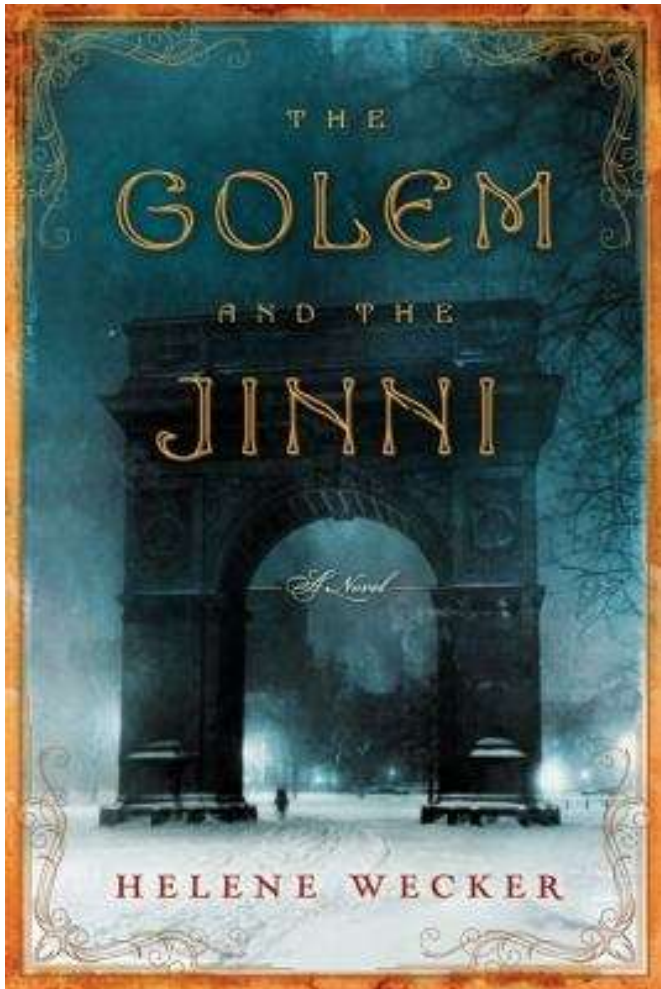
...More suggestions

- ***Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker***, Jennifer Chiaverini, Jan, 2013
- ***Vienna Nocturne***, Vivian Shotwell, Feb., 2014
(about Mozart)
- ***Mary Coin***, Marisa Silver, March, 2013
- ***Under the Wide and Starry Sky***, Nancy Horan
(about R.L. Stevenson's marriage)

GENREBENDERS

(Titles that combine or re-interpret genres)

The Golem and the Jinni by Helene Wecker



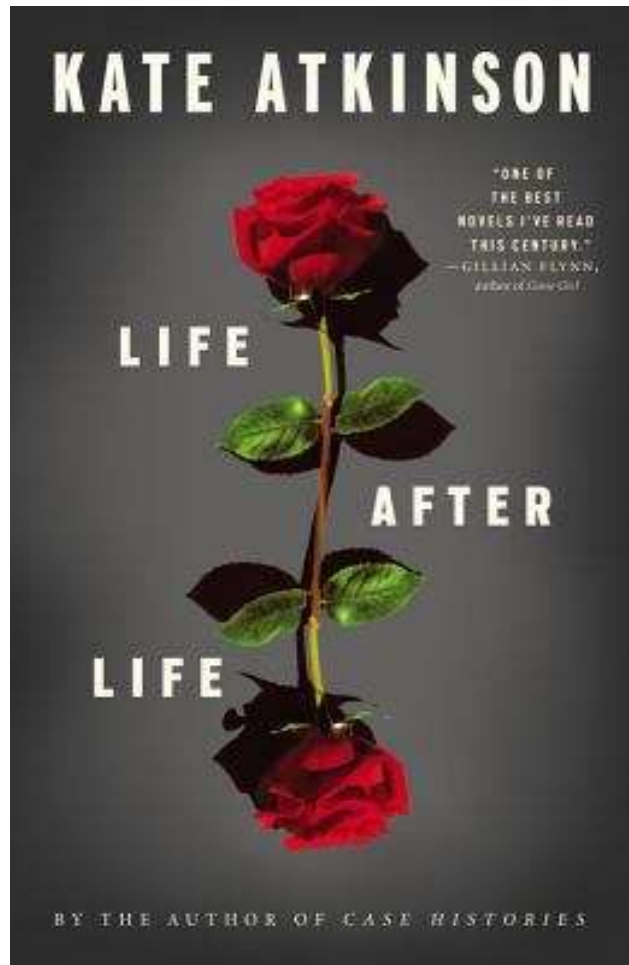
Apr., 2013; HarperCollins

First novel

Appeal: magical realism,
story, setting (NYC 1900)

Themes: folklore, Jewish
interest, human nature; YA

Life After Life by Kate Atkinson



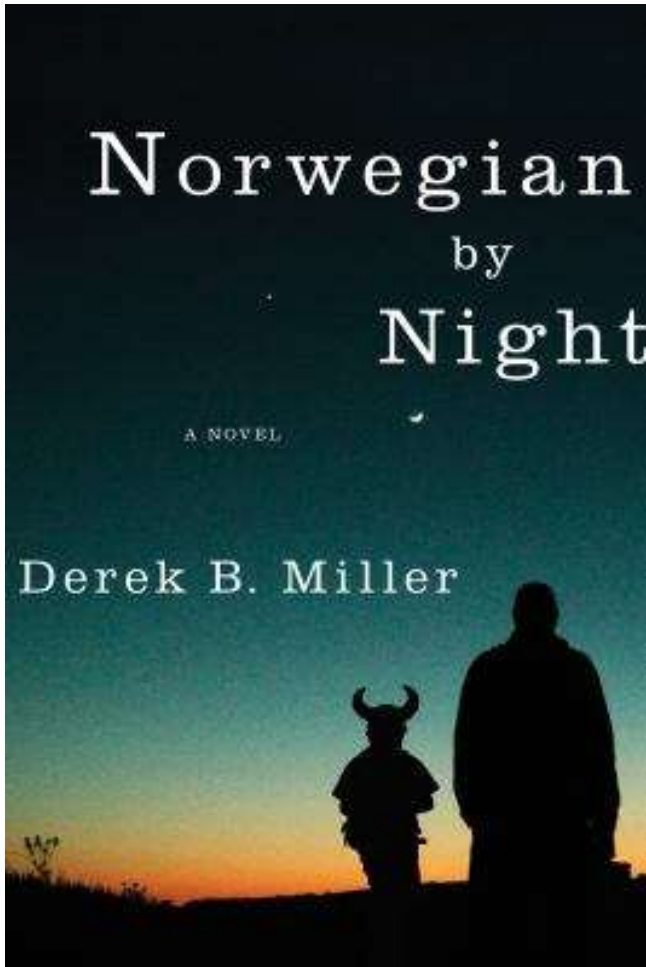
Apr., 2013; Reagan
Arthur/Penguin

Previous: ***When Will There
Be Good News?***

Appeal: story, character,
writing.

Themes: responsibility; time
travel; book groups; YA

Norwegian by Night by Derek B. Miller



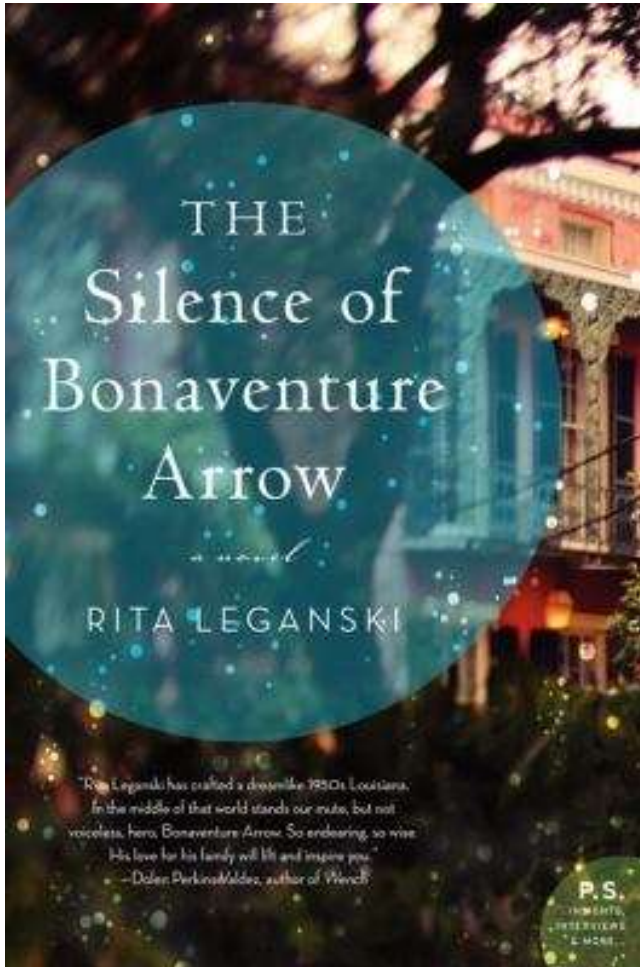
May, 2013; Houghton Mifflin

First novel

Appeal: character, story,
setting, humor

Themes: thriller; good and
evil; forgiveness; old age;
parents and children; war
crimes

The Silence of Bonaventure Arrow by Rita Leganski



Feb., 2013; HarperCollins

First novel

Appeal: character, story,
setting, magical realism

Themes: silence; children
and parents; New Orleans;
family secrets; YA

GENREBENDERS

Additional suggestions

- ***Night Film***, Marisha Pessl , Aug., 2013
- ***The Ocean at the End of the Lane***, Neil Gaiman, June, 2013

Small Presses worth watching

- Bellevue Literary Press
- Graywolf Press
- Milkweed Press
- Akashic Press
- Sourcebooks Landmark
- Biblioasis
- Red Hen
- Ig

Some hints for keeping up...

- Shelf Awareness
- Early Word
- The Book Reporter
- Reading Group Choices
- Book blogs: from newspapers, magazines, librarians, and readers
- Goodreads.com

Some hints for keeping up...

- NetGalley and Edelweiss
- Review copies from publishers
- Samples on e-readers
- AAP publisher “sneak peeks”
- Speed dating with publishers (BEA)
- Book blogs