

Read Global Book Group Suggestions for 2021

The Beautiful Things that Heaven Bears Dinaw Mengestu (2007)

228 p.; 8 print, 11 CD, eaudio (U.S.)

Seventeen years after fleeing the Ethiopian revolution, Sepha Stephanos runs a grocery store in a poor African-American neighborhood in Washington, D.C., where he reflects on his past and the differences between his prospects and the life he imagined..

Dreams of My Russian Summers, Andrei Makine (1997)

241 p.; 11 print, 2 ebook (Russia, France)

Andrei spends evenings with his grandmother in the Russian village of Saranza, and she tells him of her life in Paris at the beginning of the 20th century before she came to Russia and fell in love with his grandfather who died during World War I.

Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead, Olga Tokarczuk (2018)

274 p.; 22 print, 8 ebook (Poland)

When her neighbor turns up dead, and then other bodies turn up under strange circumstances, Janine, a recluse in a remote Polish village who prefers the company of animals over humans, inserts herself into the investigation, certain she knows whodunit.

Hope and Other Dangerous Pursuits, Laila Lalimi (2005)

195 p.; 15 print, 2 ebook (Morocco, the Strait of Gibraltar)

Set in modern-day Morocco, the story of four vastly different Moroccans who illegally cross the Strait of Gibraltar in an inflatable boat headed for Spain chronicles the circumstances that drive them to risk their lives and the rewards that may or may not prove to be worth the danger.

Interior Chinatown, Charles Yu (2020)

266 p.; 12 print, 2 eaudio (U.S.)

A stereotyped character actor stumbles into the spotlight before uncovering surprising links between his family and the secret history of Chinatown.

Long Petal of the Sea, Isabelle Allende (2020)

318 p.; 56 print, 5 LP, 33 ebook (Chile, Spain)

Sponsored by the poet Pablo Neruda to flee the violence of the Spanish Civil War, a pregnant widow and an army doctor unite in an arranged marriage, only to be swept up by the early days of WW II.

Out Stealing Horses, Per Petterson (2003)

258 p.; 25 print, 4 LP, eaudio (Norway)

Sixty-seven-year-old Trond Sander lives secluded in a far corner of Norway. Casting his mind back to 1948, he recalls a horse stealing prank with his best friend that turned tragic and changed his life forever.

Panic in a Suitcase, Yelena Akhtiorskaya (2004)

307 p.; 11 print, 1 ebook (Ukraine, U.S.)

Follows a family of Russian immigrants who move to Brighton Beach, Brooklyn, and discover that the lines between the old world and the new are very blurred and the things they thought they had left behind are readily available in America.

The Red Address Book, Sofia Lundberg (2019)

260 p.; 21 print, 7 ebook (Sweden)

Living alone in her Stockholm apartment, a 96-year-old woman reminisces through the pages of a long-kept address book before starting to write down stories from her past, unlocking family secrets in unexpectedly beneficial ways.

The Secret River, Kate Grenville (2006)

334 p; 11 print, 2 eaudio (Australia)

Moving between the slums of nineteenth-century London and the convict colonies of Australia, a compelling historical novel chronicles the lives and fortunes of the early pioneers of New South Wales, in a volume based on the author's own family history.

The Unbearable Lightness of Being, Milan Kundara (1984)

314 p; 8 print, 8 CD, eaudio (Czech Republic)

After the 1968 Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, a married surgeon, Tomas, becomes a window washer while trying to reconcile himself to decisions that he and his wife must make about their relationship.

An Unnecessary Woman, Rabih Almadhine (2013)

291 p.; 13 print, 3 ebook (Lebanon)

A love letter to literature and its power to define who we are, this is a nuanced rendering of one woman's life in the Middle East.