

NONFICTION SELECTIONS ABOUT LIBRARIES

Baez, Fernando

A Universal History of the Destruction of Books: From Ancient Sumer to Modern-Day Iraq (2003)

In this sometimes-sad but always-inspiring history, Baez traces the incidents of and motivations behind some of history's most notorious cases of book destruction. From ancient disasters to modern tragedies, Baez helps to show us how even catastrophe and censorship can never destroy the lasting importance of the ultimate symbol of human civilization: books.

Hogan, Gerree

Cape Cod Libraries: A History and Guide (2023)

Essential reading for lovers of libraries and Cape Cod, alike, Hogan's history gives readers a glimpse into each of the Cape's thirty-four libraries. Peppered with amusing anecdotes and fascinating bits of trivia, this book celebrates and catalogues these gems that are scattered from Vineyard Haven to Chatham, from Provincetown to Nantucket and nearly everywhere in between.

Johnson, Marilyn

This Book is Overdue: How Librarians and Cyberians can save us all (2010)

In her unique style, Johnson proclaims the essential function of the library, even in the modern world. Full of amusing and quirky individuals and their stories, this exploration of modern libraries remind us all of how librarians and library staff help to structure our chaotic, high-tech world while also offering us old-fashioned personal support.

Orlean, Susan

The Library Book (2019)

Exploring the disastrous 1986 Los Angeles Public Library fire, Orlean weaves a compelling narrative that delves not only into the mystery of the fire and the history of the LAPL but into the history and function of all libraries. She introduces us to a variety of library-based personalities, from eccentrics to polymaths, from founders to modern staff. *The Library Book* is both immediate and timeless.



Eldredge Public Library
564 Main Street
Chatham, MA 02633
508-945-5170

Booklists can be found online at:
<http://www.eldredgelibrary.org>



LIBRARIES IN BOOKS

Libraries aren't just the best place to find books, they're also the best place to set books! History, romance, adventure, mystery and magic, books set in libraries have something for every reader!

All the items mentioned on this list are available through the CLAMS system. **Items in bold are owned by the Eldredge Public Library.**

Benedict, Marie and Victoria Christopher Murray
The Personal Librarian (2021)

Based on the true-story of Bella de Costa, J.P. Morgan's hand-picked librarian, this novel explores her rise to social stardom and the anxiety she felt as she attempted to hide the reality of her racial heritage.

Brooks, Geraldine

People of the Book (2008)

When Hannah Heath uncovers several mysterious artifacts in the binding of a book she is meant to preserve, a journey of discovery begins. Tracing the history of a single manuscript, this novel is both an epic exploration of art-forgery and nationalism and an intimate look at our connection to a book.

Chang, Janie

The Library of Legends (2020)

At the outbreak of World War II, a school community must travel over 1,000 miles to escape the violence descending on them and to protect a 500-year-old collection of myths, legends, and folk tales. A tale of cultural, personal, and familial survival, this story reminds us of the lengths we will go to protect the people and things that are precious to us.

Charles, Janet Skeslien

The Paris Library (2021)

Odilie Souchet lived an exhilarating life as a librarian-turned-Resistance member in Paris during the second World War. Now, in 1983 Montana, she meets Lily, an inquisitive teen fascinated by her elderly neighbor's history and secrets. Little do they know that the thing that will unite them and threaten their relationship is jealousy. This story explores the links between family, friends, and the ways in which libraries bring us together and help us discover both our own secrets and the secrets of others.

Updated 2024

Cogman, Genevieve

***The Invisible Library* (2016)**

Irene and her mysterious assistant have an essential job: to find and preserve dangerous books from alternate realities. But when they venture into a chaotic version of London's underground, they have to contend with violence, uncertainty, and each other.

Davis, Fiona

***The Lions of Fifth Avenue* (2020)**

A tale of legacy, theft, and family heritage, set in both 1913 and 1993 at the New York Public Library, this story traces the legacy of grandmother and granddaughter. As each woman pushes herself to become more, they encounter the limitations and opportunities available in a library.

Ecco, Umberto

***The Name of the Rose* (1983)**

Another classic of the mystery genre, this novel is set in a mysterious medieval monastery with an even more mysterious library. When Brother Hugh de Baskerville and his assistant arrive to untangle some of the monastery's secrets, they discover that what's hidden in the library tower is worth killing for.

Fogelson, Aliza

***The Lending Library* (2020)**

When Dodie Fairisle's local library closes, she's devastated. In an attempt to recreate the experience she so misses, Dodie turns her sunroom into a lending library. Attracting zaniness and romance, the library adds new challenges and joys to her life, especially when she encounters an abandoned orphan.

Fox, Hester

***The Last Heir to Blackwood Library* (2023)**

In the midst of World War I, Ivy is suddenly elevated to Lady Hayworth, mistress of Blackwood Abby. Perhaps the greatest part of her inheritance is Blackwood's library. But why are the villagers and servants so wary of the library? And what secret manuscript is at the heart of all the rumors and legends?

Gentill, Sulari

***The Woman in the Library* (2022)**

Four strangers are stuck at a table together when a scream throws the Boston Public Library into lockdown. When the quartet discovers that there's been a murder it becomes clear that one of the people at their table isn't just a patron—they're a killer.

Gilmore, Lucy

***Library of Borrowed Hearts* (2024)**

When the jotting in a rare book reveal a long-ago love-affair between her grouchy neighbor and a mystery partner, Chloe Sampson sets off on a quest to track down all the books the pair wrote in over the years and to understand their surprising relationship.

Hammer, Joshua

***The Badass Librarians of Timbuktu* (2016)**

This celebration of the victory of culture over extremism traces the efforts of Abdel Kader Haidara over almost thirty years to first collect and then save irreplaceable works of literature from the book-burning hands of Al-Qaeda.

Harkness, Deborah

***A Discovery of Witches* (2011)**

Witches and vampires come together in one of the world's most famous libraries, Oxford's Bodleian. With bewitched manuscripts and ravaging demons, this novel plumbs the depths of the adventures we can find when we explore a library. Romance and magic abound in this exciting best-seller.

Martin, Madeline

***The Library Spy* (2022)**

A story of two women in the midst of World War II, this book follows the experiences of Ava, a librarian from the Library of Congress conscripted to work as a librarian/spy in Spain, and Elaine, an aspiring printer trapped in occupied France.

Morgenstern, Erin

***The Starless Sea* (2019)**

Continuing in the dreamily vivid style that won her praise in *The Night Circus*, Morgenstern tells the story of Zachary Ezra Rawlins as he discovers a secret library hidden deep beneath New York on the shores of an inky ocean. As he embarks on a quest to explore and perhaps save this vast, precious place, he also sets off on his own journey of self-discovery.

Ozeki, Ruth

***The Book of Form and Emptiness* (2021)**

Benny is seeking refuge from the voices he's begun to hear. While he finds asylum in the nearby library, Benny begins to find new voices, including his own Book, one who mentors him and helps him find his own story in the chaotic world of his own mind.

Richardson, Kim

***The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* (2019)**

The hillfolk of Kentucky are already a suspicious people, so when a blue-skinned young woman comes bearing free, government-issued books, it takes more than a little time for them to get used to one another. As they do, they find their own lives infinitely richer.

Zafon, Carlos Ruiz

***The Shadow of the Wind* (2004)**

Set in 1945 Barcelona, this beloved classic traces a book-lover's desperate quest to preserve an author's books against mysterious and murderous forces bent on wiping them out of existence.