Scott Anderson, *Lawrence in Arabia*
Anderson’s exhaustive research brings to life the compelling story of T.E. Lawrence’s role in shaping the Middle East during World War I. Anderson’s scholarly research and fluid writing style make this book a must-have for anyone interested in the dynamic history of this region.

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, *Americanah*
This powerful novel traces the lives of Ifemelu and Obinze, two teenagers who fall in love in Nigeria. The country’s military dictatorship causes both to emigrate: Ifemelu to college in the United States and Obinze to a more fraught life as an undocumented immigrant in London. Years later, they reconnect in Nigeria and resume their relationship. The intervening years have complicated both their lives, and both are forced to make tough choices in this remarkable book.

Jeff Benedict & Armen Keteyian, *The System*
Benedict and Keteyian were granted full behind-the-scenes access to the world of NCAA football during the 2012 season. The result is this explosive expose into the multi-billion dollar empire and the characters who comprise it. Benedict and Keteyian’s tenacious reporting makes this warts-and-all examination a thrilling read.

Lea Carpenter, *Eleven Days*
In Carpenter’s lyrical debut novel, the reader experiences eleven days in the life of Sara, whose Navy Seal son, Jason, has gone missing during a top-secret Special Operations raid. Alternately told between Jason’s letters home and Sara’s point of view, this stunning novel about war, motherhood, and the unexpected twists of life unfolds to an unexpected climax.

Jon Cohen, *The Man in the Window*
The latest release from Nancy’s Book Lust Rediscoveries weaves the unlikely love story between Louis, self-exiled to his home since his face was disfigured in a fire sixteen years earlier, and Iris, a nurse in the Intensive Care Unit at the nearby hospital. A tender and deeply funny examination of loneliness, Cohen’s story with immensely appealing characters will worm their way into your hearts.

Sheri Fink, *Five Days at Memorial*
Fink’s superlative recreation of five days at Memorial Hospital in the wake of Hurricane Katrina is investigative journalism at its finest. Fink, a physician and reporter, spent six years researching this book, and the result is a humane yet harrowing examination of our health care system’s ability to respond to natural disasters.

Elizabeth Gilbert, *The Signature of All Things*
If you only know Gilbert from *Eat, Pray, Love*, you’re in for an unexpected delight as you discover her extraordinary gift as a novelist. Set in the nineteenth century, the novel follows Alma Whittaker, the daughter of a wealthy Philadelphia tycoon. Alma’s deep intelligence and curiosity about the natural world draw her to study the mosses that grow on her family’s estate. From there, Alma’s story spins in unexpected directions, and the reader sees the incredible ways this brilliant woman both subverts and is limited by the time she lives in.

Tim Hallinan, *Little Elvises*
Hallinan’s “Junior Bender” series has proven to be an absolute joy to discerning crime fiction fans. In his second outing, Bender, who has unwittingly become a private investigator for criminals, must prove that an elderly music tycoon did not, in fact, murder the tabloid journalist he had been threatening to kill for some time. Hallinan spins an engaging tale that dives into LA’s seamy underbelly and Bender’s similarly disastrous personal life.

Brian Kimberling, *Snapper*
Kimberling’s wise and funny debut novel tracks the difficult post-college years of young Nathan Lochmuller as he discovers he has a propensity for tracking songbirds, and thus secures himself as a research assistant just outside of Bloomington, Indiana. Kimberling’s keen eye for character and richly textured prose creates a world in which readers will want to get lost.
Patrice Kindl, *Keeping the Castle*

The tiny town of Lesser Hoo has few prospective love interests for seventeen year-old Althea, whose family’s fate hinges on her ability to marry well. When the dashing and extremely wealthy Lord Boring visits, it seems to be the answer to Althea’s prayers. Yet her plans to win him over are consistently overturned by Boring’s friend and business colleague, Mr. Fredericks. Kindl’s sparkling take on Regency Romance will delight fans of the genre, and the totally winning and witty Althea makes for a cracking heroine.

James McBride, *The Good Lord Bird*

This marvelously realized novel, recently nominated for the National Book Award, explores the world of Abolitionist John Brown through the eyes of Henry Shackleford, a twelve year-old boy recently freed from slavery and now living on the fringes of Brown’s traveling camp of freedom warriors. As the novel speeds towards its inevitable climax at Harper’s Ferry, the reader sees major historical figures come to life through this enormously appealing character’s eyes. McBride’s crackling prose and deft handling of characters has earned him comparisons to Mark Twain.

Deirdre McNamer, *One Sweet Quarrel*

Another addition to Nancy’s sterling Book Lust Rediscoveries, this absorbing tale dives into the lives of siblings Amelia and Jerry Malone. It is the 1920s, and young Amelia aspires to be a night club chanteuse in Manhattan while Jerry seeks his fortune as a homesteader on the Great Plains. Fate brings them together at the 1923 Dempsey-Gibbons World Heavyweight Championship in Shelby, Montana, the town’s last-ditch effort to save itself from economic ruin. McNamer’s spare and incisive writing style illuminates this world of hard scrabble dreamers over a fifty-year time span.

Bob Shacochis, *The Woman Who Lost Her Soul*

Shacochis’ hugely ambitious novel crosses four continents and fifty years of history to tell the story of the enigmatic photojournalist Jackie Smith. Humanitarian lawyer Tom Harrington is sent down to investigate her death, and from there he unravels their complicated relationship and her involvement in global espionage. Shacochis’ first book in twenty years was eagerly greeted by his legions of admirers, and will be a welcome discovery to new readers.

Jincy Willett, *Amy Falls Down*

When elderly novelist Amy Gallup falls and hits her head on a ceramic birdbath, she is ill-prepared for the effects this shock to the system will cause. The fall unlocks a newfound wit in the reclusive writer, and her insouciant candor causes her to become a media sensation. Willet’s humane and profound sequel to her popular *The Writing Class* will be savored by fans of in-depth character studies.

Ben H. Winters, *The Last Policeman & Countdown City*

*The Last Policeman* won the 2012 Edgar Award for Best Paperback Original, and *Countdown City* marks the second installment in Winters’ “Last Policeman Trilogy.” Earth is seventy-seven days away from a deadly collision with an asteroid, and the resulting panic has produced a lawless society preparing for the apocalypse. In both books, Detective Hank Palace doggedly solves crimes despite the ensuing chaos around him. Winters crafts ingenious mysteries while studying how a society functions in its waning days of existence.

Nancy Pearl is an author and a radio and TV commentator, as well as a former librarian and book seller. She frequently speaks to library and community groups across the country and regularly recommends books on NPR’s *Morning Edition*, as well as on many public radio station programs. She’s even had a librarian action figure modeled in her likeness. Some of Nancy’s books include *Book Crush: For Kids and Teens – Recommended Reading for Every Mood, Moment, and Interest*; *Book Lust: Recommended Reading for Every Mood, Moment, and Interest*; and *Book Lust to Go: Recommended Reading for Travelers, Vagabonds, and Dreamers*. She also has partnered with Amazon Publishing to develop “Book Lust Rediscoveries,” a series devoted to reprinting some of the best, out-of-print novels originally published between 1960 and 2000.