This list has been compiled for use by the general reader and by librarians who work with adult readers. The titles were selected for their significant contribution to the expansion of knowledge or for the pleasure they can provide to adult readers. Criteria include wide general appeal and literary merit.


Bricktop, with James Haskins. *Bricktop*. Atheneum. Spunky memoirs of a black jazz singer who scrabbled her way up from Chicago saloons to her own nightclub in Paris and insouciant hobnobbing with celebrities.

Carver, Raymond. *Cathedral: Stories*. Knopf. Surface simplicity belies the inner complexity of these stories which reveal the vague menace and moral collapse of ordinary lives.

Chase, Joan. *During the Reign of the Queen of Persia: A Novel*. Harper. Three generations of midwestern women survive and continue to grow through sheer feminine endurance and determination.


Clampitt, Amy. *The Kingfisher: Poems*. Knopf. “The design might be thought of as an illuminated manuscript in which all the handwork happens to be verbal. . . .”

Didion, Joan. *Salvador*. Simon & Schuster. Report from a country where terror, fear, and repression have become the way of everyday life.

Down & Out in the Great Depression: Letters from the “Forgotten Man.” Edited by Robert S. McElvaine. Univ. of North Carolina Pr. Authentic, heartbreaking voices of the poor evoke the mood of the 1930s, when desperation mingled with hope and trust in FDR and Mrs. Roosevelt.

Drew, Elizabeth. *Politics and Money: The New Road to Corruption*. Macmillan. How the methods used to raise the vast sums of money needed to win political office are perverting the American political process.


Fossey, Dian. *Gorillas in the Mist*. Houghton. Thirteen years of gorilla research in a remote mountainous area of Africa recounted by a sensitive woman primatologist.

Fage, Nicholas. *Eleni*. Random. Haunted by memories of his mother, executed during the Greek Civil War of the 1940s, the author, seeking vengeance, returns to his village and reconstructs her last days.


Heat Moon, William Least. *Blue Highways: A Journey into America*. Atlantic/Little. Traveling the back roads in search of inner peace and his native American roots, the author discovers much about himself and the people of the “unsung side of America.”


Liang Heng and Judith Shapiro. *Son of the Revolution*. Knopf. Autobiography of a young man who grew up in China during and after the Great Cultural Revolution and survived the turmoil and tragedies by strength of will, intelligence, and accident.


Murdoch, Iris. *The Philosopher’s Pupil*. Viking. A simple story about the relationship between teacher and pupil is developed into a richly layered extravaganza as an unlikely cast of characters percolate in the hot springs of an English spa.


Rockwell, John. *All American Music: Composition in the Late Twentieth Century.* Knopf. Musical forms, from classical through salsa, are analyzed in twenty essays focusing on representative American composers.

Rushdie, Salman. *Shame.* Knopf. A chimerical tale set in a country that may or may not be modern Pakistan, where everything is seen at a slight angle to reality.

Silverman, Jonathan. *For the World to See: The Life of Margaret Bourke-White.* Viking/Studio. A photobiography of the photojournalist who recorded important social and historical events of the recent past in her magnificent pictures and poignant prose.

Song, Cathy. *Picture Bride.* Yale Univ. Pr. Colorful and luminous poems gracefully and quietly etch memories of childhood and the lives of people journeying into the world.

Theroux, Paul. *The London Embassy.* Houghton. In eighteen short stories, the narrator, an American diplomat, observes the humorous eccentricities of both American and British colleagues at his new post.


Warner, William W. *Distant Water: The Fate of the North Atlantic Fisherman.* Atlantic/Little. The plight of the beleaguered fishermen of five nations, who toil heroically under adverse conditions, and an indictment of the factory-ship system.


Wilcox, Fred A. *Waiting for an Army to Die: The Tragedy of Agent Orange.* Random. Against the indifference of government bureaucrats and chemical manufacturers, Vietnam veterans battle for recompense for the physical and emotional damage to them and their children.


*Notable Books 1983* is compiled by the Notable Books Council, Reference and Adult Services Division of the American Library Association. Council members are chosen for their experience in the critical evaluation of adult books and service to adult readers. The members of the Notable Books Council of 1983 were: Kenneth L. Ferstl, chair, School of Library and Information Sciences, North Texas State University (Denton, Tex.); Jean Adelman, The University Museum, University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, Pa.); Jeri Cole Baker, Dallas Public Library (Dallas, Tex.); Lillian H. Barker, Prince George's County Memorial Library System (Laurel, Md.); Katherine A. Golomb, Westport Library (Westport, Conn.); Anne K. Haldeman, San Francisco Public Library (San Francisco, Calif.); Jane K. Hirsch, Montgomery County Public Libraries (Rockville, Md.); Margie Knoedel, Hennepin County Library (Minnetonka, Minn.); Dorothy Nyren, Brooklyn Public Library (Brooklyn, N.Y.); Dem Polachek, Stark County District Library (Canton, Ohio); Marcia Lane Purcell, New York Public Library (New York, N.Y.); and Bill Ott, consultant, *Booklist.*

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Many of the books on this list are available in braille, talking books, or large type. Consult your Regional Library for the Blind.

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