

N O T A B L E



B O O K S



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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.



Avedon, John F. **In Exile from the Land of Snows.** Knopf. The mystery of the Dalai Lama's exile and the Chinese conquest of Tibet unveiled.

Bateson, Mary Catherine. **With a Daughter's Eye: A Memoir of Margaret Mead and Gregory Bateson.** Morrow. A candid and touching portrait of the distinguished anthropologists: an intimate view of their lives and work.

Bernen, Robert. **The Hills: More Tales from the Blue Stacks; Stories of Ireland.** Scribner. Beautifully written pieces that capture the essence of the remote Irish hill country. Quiet appreciation for a people and a way of life scarcely touched by the twentieth century.

Bosworth, Patricia. **Diane Arbus: A Biography.** Knopf. This insightful portrait explores the complex mind and personality of a woman who was obsessed with photographing "people without their masks."

Brown, Rosellen. **Civil Wars: A Novel.** Knopf. A former civil rights leader tries to recapture his activist past, while his wife copes with daily life and continues to grow.

Cheever, Susan. **Home before Dark.** Houghton. A daughter's effort to set the record straight, in a poignant and revealing memoir of her father, John Cheever.

The Chronicle of the Łódź Ghetto, 1941-1944. Edited by Lucjan Dobroszycki. Translated by Richard Lourie, Joachim Neugroschel, and others. Yale Univ. Pr. A powerful document of the horrors of daily ghetto life. The physical and psychological tensions of a constrained existence are quietly but persistently recorded.

Coetzee, J. M. **Life & Times of Michael K.** Viking. A morality tale that pits the unwavering courage of one simple man against the brutally impersonal forces of his South African homeland.

Connell, Evan S. **Son of the Morning Star.** North Point. A meticulously researched re-creation of the Battle of the Little Big Horn, combined with a biography of Custer and a history of the Plains Indians.

Dalby, Liza Carihfield. Geisha. Univ. of California Pr. An American university student describes her initiation as the first non-Japanese to enter the geisha's world.

Doctorow, E. L. Lives of the Poets: Six Stories and a Novella. Random. Short narratives followed by a novella that recapitulates and extends the memories, fears, and dreams that shape the stories.

Donoso, José. A House in the Country: A Novel. Translated by David Pritchard with Suzanne Jill Levine. Knopf. Using lush imagery to create a surrealistic world, Donoso depicts a wealthy South American dynasty. A novel of powerful psychological, historical, and political implications.

Erdrich, Louise. Love Medicine: A Novel. Holt. Moving episodes of grief, laughter, and kinship reinforce one another in a strong novel about two contemporary Native American families.

Foshay, Ella M. Reflections of Nature: Flowers in American Art. Knopf. A strikingly illustrated history of flower painting in America, from William Bartram's botanical drawings to twentieth-century experimentation with decorative and expressive forms.

Gilchrist, Ellen. Victory over Japan: A Book of Stories. Little. Southern women portrayed as outrageously funny, moving, tragic, and always appealing. A writer speaks elegantly about her own region.

Greer, Germaine. Sex and Destiny: The Politics of Human Fertility. Harper. This substantial and lively work questions Western society's attempt to influence attitudes towards human reproduction in developing nations.

Haruf, Kent. The Tie That Binds: A Novel. Holt. A natural style enhances this story of one woman's indomitable spirit and devotion to her tyrannical father and dependent younger brother.

Hayden, Dolores. Redesigning the American Dream: The Future of Housing, Work, and Family Life. Norton. A timely and provocative examination of the American dream of single-family housing considered from historical and cross-cultural perspectives.

Heinrich, Bernd. In a Patch of Fireweed. Harvard Univ. Pr. A biologist conveys the excitement of field observation and shows how his life experiences influenced his development as a naturalist.

Hughes, Ted. River. Harper. Marvels of life in and connected with the river are given lyric expression in 43 new poems by Britain's poet laureate.

Jacobs, Jane. Cities and the Wealth of Nations: Principles of Economic Life. Random. Vital cities produce strong economies: a study of the urban creation of wealth and prosperity.

Kenney, Susan. In Another Country: A Novel. Viking. Six interlocking stories probe the mysteries of family connection, human loss, and emotional survival.

Lockwood, C. C. The Gulf Coast: Where Land Meets Sea. Louisiana State Univ. Pr. Beautiful photographs of the ecological system of a unique area, accompanied by the photographer-naturalist's perceptive and stimulating commentary.

Luria, S. E. A Slot Machine, A Broken Test Tube: An Autobiography. Harper. Thoughtful and engaging recollections on the circumstances that shaped the life of a Nobel Prize-winning biologist.

Lurie, Alison. Foreign Affairs. Random. The tale of two American scholars on sabbatical in London, both from the same university, both entangled with romantic interests, and both reacting to the unexpected.

Mehta, Ved. The Ledge between the Streams. Norton. The childhood and adolescence of the writer; his efforts to lead a normal life despite his blindness and a chaotic India coming to independence.

Morris, Jan. Journeys. Oxford Univ. Pr. Thirteen witty and elegant essays about a succession of journeys to locales in the United States, Europe, and Asia by an accomplished travel writer.

Olds, Sharon. The Dead and the Living: Poems. Knopf. A painful but passionate cycle of poems that honors relationships, both living and dead.

Pawel, Ernst. The Nightmare of Reason: A Life of Franz Kafka. Farrar. This definitive and moving study of a significant writer exposes the human anguish that is central to his work.

Phillips, Jayne Anne. Machine Dreams. Dutton/Seymour Lawrence. The machines that symbolize America in peace and war form the backdrop for the successive voices of a loving but disintegrating family.

Powell, Padgett. Edisto. Farrar. A precocious 12-year-old boy learns about life from an assortment of eccentric characters in a South Carolina coastal town. A hilarious yet poignant first novel.

Sakurai, Atsushi. Salmon. Knopf. Magnificent photographs and informative text give a breathtaking glimpse into the mysterious migration of salmon and their extraordinary last rite.

Shirer, William L. The Nightmare Years, 1930-1940. (20th Century Journey: A Memoir of a Life and Times, vol. 2) Little. A vibrant eyewitness account of the harrowing events of the Hitler years.

Spence, Jonathan D. **The Memory Palace of Matteo Ricci.** Viking. Meditations on a sixteenth-century Jesuit in China, imaginatively linking contemporary social themes to symbols and pictures Ricci used in early missionary works.

Swift, Graham. **Waterland.** Poseidon. The enchantment of the English fens saturates this novel of brewmasters and lockkeepers haunted by repercussions of violence, incest, and murder in their family history.

Talbot, Strobe. **Deadly Gambits: The Reagan Administration and the Stalemate in Nuclear Arms Control.** Knopf. A diplomatic correspondent critically analyzes in nontechnical terms U.S. arms control politics and policies since 1980.

Terkel, Studs. **"The Good War": An Oral History of World War Two.** Pantheon. A masterful portrait of a national experience as described by the men and women who lived it.

Terry, Wallace. **Bloods: An Oral History of the Vietnam War by Black Veterans.** Random. Candid, eloquent, bitter, unique testimonies.

Unger, Douglas. **Leaving the Land: A Novel.** Harper. A resilient woman struggles to hold on to her Dakota farm in the face of encroaching agribusiness and her son's indifference to the land.

Welty, Eudora. **One Writer's Beginnings.** Harvard Univ. Pr. The well-known author's Mississippi childhood recounted not only as a loving tribute to her parents and grandparents but also as an evocative introduction to her creative roots.

Wideman, John Edgar. **Brothers and Keepers.** Holt. In a sensitive look at family strength in times of trouble, a noted novelist offers a testimony of love for his convict brother.

Yehoshua, A. B. **A Late Divorce.** Translated from the Hebrew by Hillel Halkin. Doubleday. The many voices of an Israeli family reverberate in a searing tale of crises and clashing values.

Zweig, Paul. **Walt Whitman: The Making of the Poet.** Basic Books. Personal experiences and cultural growth are combined in this fresh approach to the development of the "Good Grey Poet."

Notable Books 1984 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 1984 were: Kenneth L. Ferstl, chair, Denton Public Library (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.); Anne K. Halderman, San Francisco Public Library (San Francisco, Calif.); Jane K. Hirsch, Montgomery County Public Libraries (Rockville, Md.); Donald Jacobsen, New City Library (New City, N.Y.); Diane Gordon Kadanoff, Norwell Public Library (Norwell, Mass.); Dorothy Nyren, Brooklyn Public Library (Brooklyn, N.Y.); Teresa M. Portilla, University of California (Los Angeles, Calif.); Marcia Lane Purcell, New York Public Library (New York, N.Y.); Dorothy Rasmussen, Skokie Public Library (Skokie, Ill.); 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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