

Notable
Books
1987



This list has been compiled by the Notable Book Council of the American Library Association Reference and Adult Services Division. Books were chosen for their significant contribution to the expansion of knowledge or for the pleasure they can provide to adult readers.

Fiction

- *Barfoot, Joan. Duet for Three.* Beaufort. The subtle bond that links mothers and daughters is explored in this powerful story of conflicting relationships.
- *Dorris, Michael. A Yellow Raft in Blue Water.* Holt. Three generations of native American women relate the events of their lives, demonstrating the impact of blood, secrets, and the will to persevere.
- *Fink, Ida. A Scrap of Time: And Other Stories.* Tr. from the Polish by Madeline Levine and Francine Prose. Pantheon. A Holocaust survivor writes a devastating collection of stories about Polish Jews who witnessed the horror of annihilation.
- *Gordon, Mary. Temporary Shelter.* Random. Rich stories that reverberate with the flaws of family relationships held in a vise of ethnic and religious heritage.
- *Hall, Donald. The Ideal Bakery.* North Point. Death, grief, love, and nostalgia are among the prevalent themes of this diverse collection of brilliantly crafted stories.
- *Hoffman, Alice. Illumination Night.* Putnam. Set on Martha's Vineyard, this enchanting story explores aging, alienation, agoraphobia, maternal love, fidelity, and rejection.
- *Lopate, Phillip. The Rug Merchant.* Viking. A modern parable of a small man of integrity and innocence who refuses to be corrupted by the indifference and cynicism of city life.

■ *McMahon, Thomas. Loving Little Egypt.* Viking. A nearly blind physics prodigy and his disabled friends breach the secrets of the telephone system and comically challenge the powers of Thomas Edison and William Randolph Hearst.

■ *Menaker, Daniel. The Old Left.* Knopf. These stories, rich in humor and charm, relate the loving but often frustrating relationship between David Leonard and his irascible 90-year-old Uncle Sol.

■ *Morrison, Toni. Beloved.* Knopf. Art illuminates history in this powerful story of the black experience and the devastating legacy of slavery after the Civil War.

■ *Simpson, Mona. Anywhere but Here.* Knopf. The complex and troubled relationship between a mother and daughter is probed as they move not only from Wisconsin to Beverly Hills, but also toward an acceptance of each other.

■ *Stegner, Wallace. Crossing to Safety.* Random. A lyrical exploration of an enduring friendship between two couples through good times and bad.

■ *Thornton, Lawrence. Imagining Argentina.* Doubleday. During the recent military regime in Argentina, a Buenos Aires playwright discovers he can "see" the fates of the disappeared ones. A chilling portrayal of terror.

■ *Weesner, Theodore. The True Detective.* Summit. A harrowing psychological study of the effects of kidnapping and child molestation on the victim, the abductor, their families, and the investigating detective.

■ *Weldon, Fay. The Shrapnel Academy.* Viking. A curious assortment of visitors and Third World servants assemble for a night of comic mayhem at a military institution named after the inventor of the exploding cannonball.

Nonfiction

■ *Burgess, Anthony. Little Wilson and Big God.* Weidenfeld & Nicolson. As playful as any of his novels, the first volume of Burgess' autobiography is a witty and wise evocation of his colorful upbringing, strained marriage, and growing passion for language.

■ *Donald, David Herbert. Look Homeward: A Life of Thomas Wolfe.* Little, Brown. Sympathetic, well balanced, and meticulously researched, this highly readable biography assumes its place as the definitive life of one of America's most problematic novelists.

■ *Fjermedal, Grant. The Tomorrow Makers: A Brave New World of Living-Brain Machines.* Macmillan. Through in-depth interviews, robotics researchers discuss the fascinating implications of "downloading" the human mind and other advances in artificial intelligence.

■ *Goodwin, Doris Kearns. The Fitzgeralds and the Kennedys.* Simon & Schuster. A sharply focused portrayal, based on exacting research, provides a compassionate family history of one of America's most fascinating political dynasties.

■ *Gornick, Vivian. Fierce Attachments: A Memoir.* Farrar. A prominent journalist reveals with candor and wit how her struggle to escape a neurotic childhood has given her an honest, though perverse, new bond with her mother.

■ *Hayman, Ronald. Sartre: A Life.* Simon & Schuster. This biography yields new insights into the private and political lives of Jean-Paul Sartre, chief spokesman for existentialism and a dominant voice in the twentieth-century intellectual history.

■ *Koonz, Claudia. Mothers in the Fatherland: Women, the Family, and Nazi Politics.* St. Martin's. A ground-breaking exploration of the role of women in the Nazi movement and its ideology.

■ *Miller, Arthur. Timebends.* Grove. This compelling autobiography covers Miller's Brooklyn childhood, his successes and failures in the theater, his political problems, and his highly publicized marriage to Marilyn Monroe.

Poetry

■ *Lynch, Thomas. Skating with Heather Grace.* Knopf. These elegant, moving poems dwell on death to celebrate life. A remarkable first collection of verse heralding the arrival of an important poetic voice.

■ *Olds, Sharon. The Gold Cell.* Knopf. Parents, children, courtship, and married love are the themes of these poignant poems that touch the reader on both emotional and intellectual levels.

■ *Rhodes, Richard. The Making of the Atomic Bomb.*

Simon & Schuster. The history of our most powerful weapon from its conception in scientific minds to the devastation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki is recounted with drama, intensity, and wisdom.

■ *Shilts, Randy. And the Band Played On: Politics, People, and the AIDS Epidemic.* St. Martin's. A *San Francisco Chronicle* reporter traces the course of this deadly disease, weaving moving human portraits into compelling investigative journalism.

Notable Books 1987

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