



1944

1994

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY



This list has been compiled for use by the general reader and by librarians who work with adults. The titles have been selected by the Notable Books Council, ALA Reference and Adult Services Division, for their significant contribution to the expansion of knowledge or for the pleasure they can provide to adult readers. Titles were selected from books published from November 1992 through October 1993 that demonstrate wide general appeal and literary merit.

Fiction

Coyle, Beverly. **In Troubled Waters.** Ticknor & Fields. The story of a small-town Florida family, this moving and funny novel explores timely issues of racial conflict and community harmony.

Eugenides, Jeffrey. **The Virgin Suicides.** Farrar. In an evocative and mysterious first novel, the suicides of five teenage sisters assume mythic proportions for the now middle-aged men who observed their deaths.

Gaines, Ernest J. **A Lesson before Dying.** Knopf. A young, illiterate black man condemned to death for a crime he did not commit finds his voice in this story about racism in 1940s Louisiana.

Jones, Thom. **The Pugilist at Rest.** Little, Brown. These strong debut stories encompass both the unsavory and the ordinary in settings ranging from Vietnam to hospital wards.

Klima, Ivan. **Judge on Trial.** Tr. by A. G. Brian. Knopf. A major Czechoslovakian novelist examines the moral dilemma of a judge struggling to survive within a totalitarian state.

Malouf, David. **Remembering Babylon.** Pantheon. When a young castaway reared by Australian Aboriginals appears in a colonial settlement, the British inhabitants confront the fears his strangeness provokes.

McCracken, Elizabeth. **Here's Your Hat, What's Your Hurry.** Random/Turtle Bay. Quirky characters make the best of their eccentricities in these exuberant, life-affirming stories.

Nordan, Lewis. **Wolf Whistle.** Algonquin. The Emmett Till lynching and trial in 1955 Mississippi is the inspiration for Nordan's haunting novel told in a tragicomic style.

Proulx, E. Annie. **The Shipping News.** Scribner. Offbeat characters manage life's ups and downs in a novel imbued with Newfoundland local color.

Russo, Richard. **Nobody's Fool.** Random. Sully—60, down on his luck but a born survivor—is central to this humorous and compassionate novel set in upstate New York.

Watson, Larry. **Montana 1948.** Milkweed Editions. The abuse of power, trust and family loyalty creates a catastrophic dilemma for a small-town sheriff, his wife and his son.

Poetry

Fiser, Karen. **Words Like Fate and Pain.** Zoland. Incisive poems explore physical disability and moments of grace.

Van Duyn, Mona. **If It Be Not I: Collected Poems, 1959—1982.** Knopf. This powerful collection renders the complexities of ordinary life in precise, transforming language.

Nonfiction

Arenas, Reinaldo. **Before Night Falls.** Viking. In fierce, often poetic language, Arenas describes his struggle to transcend childhood poverty and to survive as a gay man in Castro's Cuba.

Chernow, Ron. **The Warburgs.** Random. Meticulous research and gifted storytelling combine in this historical biography of a German Jewish banking family whose destiny is changed by the Holocaust.

Delany, Sarah, and, A. Elizabeth Delany. **Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters' First 100 Years.** Kodansha. With humor and forthrightness, Sadie and Bessie Delany speak their minds after living for more than 100 years as sisters, career women and socially responsive African Americans.

Drakulic, Slavenka. **The Balkan Express: Fragments from the Other Side of War.** Norton. A Croatian journalist's acute essays give the ongoing Balkan War an individual face and document Yugoslavia's slide into chaos.

Kaplan, Robert D. **Balkan Ghosts: A Journey Through History.** St. Martin's. Travel essays provide the historical context for the long-standing blood feuds of the Balkan Peninsula.

Kaysen, Susanna. **Girl, Interrupted.** Random/Turtle Bay. Kaysen looks back with a sharp eye at the two teenage years she spent in a psychiatric hospital.

Kelly, Michael. **Martyrs' Day: Chronicle of a Small War.** Random. A journalist's eyewitness account of the Persian Gulf War makes clear the horrific cost of hatred.

Kennedy, Paul. **Preparing for the Twenty-first Century.** Random. Major trends in and implications of socioeconomic developments provide guidance to understanding technological challenges and global changes.

Mills, Kay. **This Little Light of Mine: The Life of Fannie Lou Hamer.** Dutton. Less-known details of the civil-rights movement emerge in this lively biography.

Prejean, Helen. **Dead Man Walking: An Eyewitness Account of the Death Penalty in the United States.** Random. A Catholic nun, spiritual adviser to men on death row, presents strong testimony against capital punishment for its cruelty and injustice to all victims.

Remnick, David. **Lenin's Tomb: The Last Days of the Soviet Empire.** Random. A sweeping narrative filled with vivid scenes and strong individuals chronicles the ending of the Soviet regime and the beginning of an uncertain future.

Schaller, George B. **The Last Panda.** Univ. of Chicago. This account of an expedition to observe the giant panda describes the joys, frustrations and griefs of studying an endangered species in its native habitat.

Vidal, Gore. **United States: Essays, 1952—1992.** Random. Intelligent, witty, and astute essays on literature, art and politics span 40 years of U.S. history.

Notable Books 1994

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