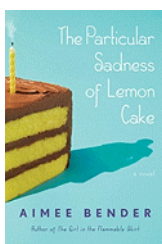


NEW FICTION

(Annotations from BookLetters)

Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake by Aimee Bender.
BookPage Notable Title

The wondrous Bender conjures the lush and moving story of a girl whose magical gift is really a devastating curse. *The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake* is a luminous tale--heartbreaking and funny, wise and sad.



Promises to Keep by Jane Green.

From the bestselling author of *Dune Road* and *Beach House* comes a momentous new novel about a family suddenly thrown together when each person receives a shocking note that summons them for one extraordinary summer in Maine.

A Question of Belief by Donna Leon.
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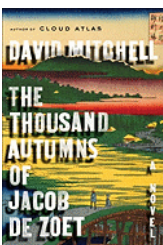
Leon's bestselling series featuring the principled, warmhearted Venetian Commissario Guido Brunetti has won her international renown as one of the world's best crimewriters. In *A Question of Belief*, Brunetti must contend with ingenious corruption, bureaucratic intransigence, and the stifling heat of a Venetian summer.



The Thousand Autumns of Jacob De Zoet by David Mitchell.

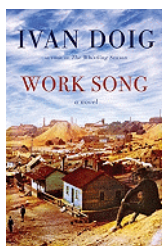
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Mitchell, a Man Booker Prize finalist for *Cloud Atlas*, returns with a story set at the turn of the 18th century around Dejima, an artificial island located in Nagasaki Bay and used as a trade outpost by the Dutch East Indies Company.



Work Song by Ivan Doig.

Ivan Doig, born and bred in Montana, has written many popular works of fiction about the American West. In *Work Song*, he returns to his best-selling 2008 novel *The Whistling Season* and its central character, Morrie Morgan. The place: Butte, Montana of 1919, a bustling post-World War I copper mining capital, where "The Richest Hill on Earth" has enticed Morrie to try his luck at siphoning off a few of the riches said to be waiting in its famed copper veins under the earth.



Beachcombers by Nancy Thayer.

Beautifully written, powerfully felt, full of both abundant joy and heart-wrenching sorrow, *Beachcombers* is an extraordinary novel that centers on the bittersweet reunion of three captivating, very different sisters on Nantucket over one gorgeous, exhilarating summer.



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STAFF PICKS

Elise's Picks

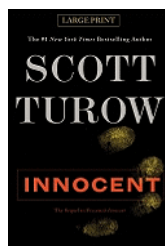
The Lotus Eaters by Tatjana Soli.

Opening with the chaotic fall of Saigon, this impressive debut novel chronicles the 12-year odyssey of a young female photojournalist who comes to Vietnam determined to cover the war "in country." One of the first women combat photographers, Helen Adams wins the grudging respect of a legendary war correspondent and the protection of his Vietnamese guide. Recently honored with a cover review in the *Times* Sunday Book section, Soli's extensively researched novel has been widely praised as a complex love story that captures the fragile beauty of an ancient war-torn land, while also raising troubling questions about the moral ambiguities of combat journalism.



Innocent by Scott Turow.

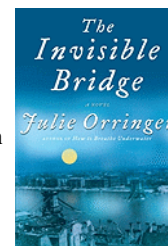
Two decades later, Scott Turow has written a powerful sequel to his pioneering courtroom drama, *Presumed Innocent*. Once again Rusty Sabich, now an appellate court judge, is accused of murder, this time for allegedly poisoning his troubled wife. And once again, prosecuting Rusty is his old nemesis, Tommy Molto, and defending him is his former savior, Alejandro "Sandy" Stern. Told from several perspectives, this is a thoughtful, riveting, and wise legal thriller. As one would expect, the trial scenes are masterful, full of surprising twists and lawyerly strategies, but it's Turow's exploration of the mysteries of human behavior that makes this such a compelling and mature novel.



Dorothy's Picks

The Invisible Bridge by Julie Orringer.

This panoramic novel follows the plight of a group of Hungarian Jews beginning in 1937 through their struggles during World War II. Andras Lévi leaves Budapest to study architecture at the Ecole Spéciale in Paris. Here he meets Klara, nine years his senior, a Hungarian expatriate running a ballet school in the City of Lights. Their romance provides the backdrop for this story of love tested by conflict, of the pull of family bonds, and of the power of art in a time of war. Rich in historical detail, *The Invisible Bridge* has deservedly been compared to Pasternak's *Dr. Zhivago*.



Heroic Measures by Jill Ciment.



Ruth and Alex Cohen are inveterate New Yorkers, long-time residents of Manhattan's Lower East Side. She is a retired schoolteacher and he is a painter, committed to his art. Now in their seventies, they contemplate whether it's time to leave their fifth floor walk-up for a more comfortable abode. Over the course of 48 hours, they navigate the New York real estate market and deal with the illness of their beloved dachshund Dorothy, while the city undergoes a possible terrorist threat. Ciment gives us two unforgettable characters, portrayed with humor and compassion. By the end of the novel, Ruth and Alex feel like old friends, whose company you'll be loathe to leave.