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**GOOD TO KNOW!** - Kits check out for a total of 6 weeks.

All kits contain 8 regular print copies and supplement discussion materials. Some kits may also include 1 large print edition and 1 audio book on cd edition where available. Please review each kit's inventory tag to make sure all kit materials are included when checking out and returning.

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**All Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion** (fiction) by Fannie Flagg

This new comic mystery novel is about two women who are forced to reimagine who they are spans decades and generations. Mrs. Sookie Poole of Point Clear, Alabama, has just married off the last of her daughters and is looking forward to relaxing and traveling with her husband, Earle. The only thing left to contend with is her mother, who may be a lot of fun for other people, but is, for the most part, an overbearing presence for her daughter. Then one day, Sookie discovers a secret about her mother's past that knocks her for a loop and calls into question everything she ever thought she knew about herself, her family, and her future.

**Annie's Ghosts** (biography) by Steve Luxenberg

*Great Michigan Read 2013*

Steve Luxenberg, a senior editor at the *Washington Post* and Detroit native, explores the story of his aunt, Annie Cohen, who was committed to Detroit's Eloise Hospital in 1940 when she was 21. She was effectively erased from Luxenberg's family tree thereafter. In investigating his family's personal history, Luxenberg embarks on a journey to discover not only his aunt's story, but explores the social history and day-to-day life of turn-of-the-century Detroit through its present day.

**Beautiful Ruins** (fiction) by Jess Walter

The story begins in 1962. On a rocky patch of the sun-drenched Italian coastline, a young innkeeper, chest-deep in daydreams, looks out over the incandescent waters of the Ligurian Sea and spies an apparition: a tall, thin woman, a vision in white, approaching him on a boat. She is an actress, he soon learns, an American starlet, and she is dying. And the story begins again today, half a world away, when an elderly Italian man shows up on a movie studio's back lot—searching for the mysterious woman he last saw at his hotel decades earlier.

**New - Daisy Jones & the Six** (fiction) by Taylor Jenkins Reid

Daisy is a girl coming of age in L.A. in the late sixties, sneaking into clubs on the Sunset Strip, sleeping with rock stars, and dreaming of singing at the Whisky a Go Go. The sex and drugs are thrilling, but it's the rock 'n' roll she loves most. By the time she's twenty, her voice is getting noticed, and she has the kind of heedless beauty that makes people do crazy things. Also getting noticed is The Six, a band led by the brooding Billy Dunne. On the eve of their first tour, his girlfriend Camila finds out she's pregnant, and with the pressure of impending fatherhood and fame, Billy goes a little wild on the road. Daisy and Billy cross paths when a producer realizes that the key to supercharged success is to put the two together. What happens next will become the stuff of legend. The making of that legend is chronicled in this riveting and unforgettable novel, written as an oral history of one of the biggest bands of the seventies.

***New - Dinner List*** (fiction romance) by Rebecca Serle

At one point or another, we've all been asked to name five people, living or dead, with whom we'd like to have dinner. Why do we choose the people we do? And what if that dinner was to actually happen? These are the questions Rebecca Serle contends with in her utterly captivating novel, *THE DINNER LIST*, a story imbued with the same delightful magical realism as *One Day*, and the life-changing romance of *Me Before You*. When Sabrina arrives at her thirtieth birthday dinner she finds at the table not just her best friend, but also three significant people from her past, and well, Audrey Hepburn. As the appetizers are served, wine poured, and dinner table conversation begins, it becomes clear that there's a reason these six people have been gathered together. Delicious but never indulgent, sweet with just the right amount of bitter, *The Dinner List* is a romance for our times. Bon appetit.

***New – Fly Girls: How five daring women defied all odds and made aviation history*** (non-fiction history) by Keith O'Brien

A *New York Times* Bestseller \* An Amazon Best Book of the Year \* A *New York Times Book Review* Editors' Choice \* A *Time* Best Book for Summer

Between the world wars, no sport was more popular, or more dangerous, than airplane racing. While male pilots were lauded as heroes, the few women who dared to fly were more often ridiculed—until a cadre of women pilots banded together to break through the entrenched prejudice. *Fly Girls* weaves together the stories of five remarkable women: Florence Klingensmith, a high school dropout from Fargo, North Dakota; Ruth Elder, an Alabama divorcée; Amelia Earhart, the most famous, but not necessarily the most skilled; Ruth Nichols, who chafed at her blue blood family's expectations; and Louise Thaden, the young mother of two who got her start selling coal in Wichita. Together, they fought for the chance to fly and race airplanes—and in 1936, one of them would triumph, beating the men in the toughest air race of them all.

***New – Good and Mad: The revolutionary power of woman's anger*** (non-fiction political) by Rebecca Traister

Long before Pantsuit Nation, before the Women's March, and before the #MeToo movement, women's anger was not only politically catalytic—but politically problematic. The story of female fury and its cultural significance demonstrates its crucial role in women's slow rise to political power in America, as well as the ways that anger is received when it comes from women as opposed to when it comes from men. "Urgent, enlightened...realistic and compelling...Traister eloquently highlights the challenge of blaming not just forces and systems, but individuals" (*The Washington Post*). In *Good and Mad*, Traister tracks the history of female anger as political fuel—from suffragettes marching on the White House to office workers vacating their buildings after Clarence Thomas was confirmed to the Supreme Court. Traister explores women's anger at both men and other women; anger between ideological allies and foes; the varied ways anger is received based on who's expressing it; and the way women's collective fury has become transformative political fuel. She deconstructs society's (and the media's) condemnation of female emotion (especially rage) and the impact of their resulting repercussions. Highlighting a double standard perpetuated against women by all sexes, and its disastrous, stultifying effect, *Good and Mad* is "perfectly timed and inspiring" (*People*, Book of the Week). This "admirably rousing narrative" (*The Atlantic*) offers a glimpse into the galvanizing force of women's collective anger, which, when harnessed, can change history.

***New – Great Believers*** (fiction) by Rebecca Makkai

*2019 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction*

In 1985, Yale Tishman, the development director for an art gallery in Chicago, is about to pull off an amazing coup, bringing in an extraordinary collection of 1920s paintings as a gift to the gallery. Yet as his career begins to flourish, the carnage of the AIDS epidemic grows around him. One by one, his friends are dying and after his friend Nico's funeral, the virus circles closer and closer to Yale himself. Soon the only person he has left is Fiona, Nico's little sister. Thirty years later, Fiona is in Paris tracking down her estranged daughter who disappeared into a cult. While staying with an old friend, a famous photographer who documented the Chicago crisis, she finds herself finally grappling with the devastating ways AIDS affected her life and her relationship with her daughter. The two intertwining stories take us through the heartbreak of the eighties and the chaos of the modern world, as both Yale and Fiona struggle to find goodness in the midst of disaster.

***Handmaid's Tale*** (dystopian fiction) by Margaret Atwood

Offred is a Handmaid in the Republic of Gilead. She may leave the home of the Commander and his wife once a day to walk to food markets whose signs are now pictures instead of words because women are no longer allowed to read. She must lie on her back once a month and pray that the Commander makes her pregnant, because in an age of declining births, Offred and the other Handmaids are valued only if their ovaries are viable. Offred can remember the days before, when she lived and made love with her husband Luke; when she played with and protected her daughter; when she had a job, money of her own, and access to knowledge. But all of that is gone now....

Funny, unexpected, horrifying, and altogether convincing, *The Handmaid's Tale* is at once scathing satire, dire warning, and literary tour de force.

***House Girl*** (fiction) by Tara Conklin

Virginia, 1852. Seventeen-year-old Josephine Bell decides to run from the failing tobacco farm where she is a slave and nurse to her ailing mistress, the aspiring artist Lu Anne Bell. New York City, 2004. Lina Sparrow, an ambitious first-year associate in an elite law firm, is given a difficult, highly sensitive assignment that could make her career: she must find the "perfect plaintiff" to lead a historic class-action lawsuit worth trillions of dollars in reparations for descendants of American slaves. Moving between antebellum Virginia and modern-day New York, this searing, suspenseful and heartbreaking tale of art and history, love and secrets, explores what it means to repair a wrong and asks whether truth is sometimes more important than justice.

***In the Midst of Winter*** (literary fiction) by Isabel Allende

*In the Midst of Winter* begins with a minor traffic accident—which becomes the catalyst for an unexpected and moving love story between two people who thought they were deep into the winter of their lives. Richard Bowmaster—a 60-year-old human rights scholar—hits the car of Evelyn Ortega—a young, undocumented immigrant from Guatemala—in the middle of a snowstorm in Brooklyn. What at first seems just a small inconvenience takes an unforeseen and far more serious turn when Evelyn turns up at the professor's house seeking help. At a loss, the professor asks his tenant Lucia Maraz—a 62-year-old lecturer from Chile—for her advice. These three very different people are brought together in a mesmerizing story that moves from present-day Brooklyn to Guatemala in the recent past to 1970s Chile and Brazil, sparking the beginning of a long overdue love story between Richard and Lucia.

***Invention of Wings*** (historical fiction) by Sue Monk Kidd

This novel is the riveting, inspiring story of the Grimke sisters, Sarah and Angelina who were at the forefront of the abolitionist and women's rights movements. The novel interweaves the narrative of a determined, inventive young slave, Hetty or Handful, who was given to Sarah as a gift on her 11<sup>th</sup> birthday. Sarah despises slavery and rejects the gift. Hetty still remains in the Grimke household and forms a remarkable friendship with Sarah in a state that places a price on slaves in the same way it does a bolt of cloth or side of beef. Much of the Grimke story is historically based and crafted into an elegantly written first person account of Sarah and Hetty's struggle for freedom and voice in a time where women and certainly slaves had little chance to develop their talents and articulate and act on their beliefs and passions.

***Isadore's Secret*** (nonfiction) by Mardi Jo Link

*Michigan author*

A gripping story of a nun who was murdered in Isadore nearly 100 years ago. Years after the nun's disappearance, her bones were found, but only when local law enforcement found out about this murder as gossip spread through the town was anything done to find out who killed the nun, Sister Janina. A compelling story and a well-researched and carefully written account of the events that affected Isadore and its Catholic Polish population so greatly." -Michigan Notable Book Award committee

***Lisette's List*** (historical fiction) by Susan Vreeland

In 1937, young Lisette Roux and her husband, André, move from Paris to a village in Provence to care for André's grandfather, Pascal. Lisette regrets having to give up her dream of becoming a gallery apprentice and longs for the comforts and sophistication of Paris. But she soon develops strong ties to the land and people of her new village and a new appreciation for the power of art. As a pigment salesman and frame maker selling his pigments in Paris, Pascal befriended Pissarro and Cézanne and received some of their paintings. When war breaks out, André goes off to the front, but not before hiding Pascal's paintings from the Nazis' reach. With German forces spreading across Europe, the sudden fall of Paris, and the rise of Vichy France, Lisette sets out to locate the paintings. Her search takes her through the stunning French countryside, and introduces her to Marc and Bella Chagall. Throughout the novel Vreeland explores the power of art as a way to persevere the sorrow, loss and tragic destruction of war.

***Little Fires Everywhere*** (fiction) by Celeste Ng

In Shaker Heights, a placid, progressive suburb of Cleveland, everything is planned – from the layout of the winding roads, to the colors of the houses, to the successful lives its residents will go on to lead. And no one embodies this spirit more than Elena Richardson, whose guiding principle is playing by the rules. Enter Mia Warren – an enigmatic artist and single mother – who arrives in this idyllic bubble with her teenaged daughter Pearl, and rents a house from the Richardsons. Soon Mia and Pearl become more than tenants: all four Richardson children are drawn to the mother-daughter pair. But Mia carries with her a mysterious past and a disregard for the status quo that threatens to upend this carefully ordered community. When old family friends of the Richardsons attempt to adopt a Chinese-American baby, a custody battle erupts that dramatically divides the town--and puts Mia and Elena on opposing sides. Suspicious of Mia and her motives, Elena is determined to uncover the secrets in Mia's past. But her obsession will come at unexpected and devastating costs.

*Little Fires Everywhere* explores the weight of secrets, the nature of art and identity, and the ferocious pull of motherhood – and the danger of believing that following the rules can avert disaster.

***Luminaries*** (fiction) by Eleanor Catton

It is 1866, and young Walter Moody has come to make his fortune upon the New Zealand goldfields. On the stormy night of his arrival, he stumbles across a tense gathering of twelve local men who have met in secret to discuss a series of unexplained events: A wealthy man has vanished, a prostitute has tried to end her life, and an enormous fortune has been discovered in the home of a luckless drunk. Moody is soon drawn into the mystery: a network of fates and fortunes that is as complex and exquisitely ornate as the night sky. Richly evoking a mid-nineteenth-century world of shipping, banking, and gold rush boom and bust, *The Luminaries* is a brilliantly constructed, fiendishly clever ghost story and a gripping page-turner.

***Manhattan Beach*** (fiction) by Jennifer Egan

*2017 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction*

Anna Kerrigan, nearly twelve years old, accompanies her father to visit Dexter Styles, a man who, she gleans, is crucial to the survival of her father and her family. She is mesmerized by the sea beyond the house and by some charged mystery between the two men. Years later, her father has disappeared and the country is at war. Anna works at the Brooklyn Naval Yard, where women are allowed to hold jobs that once belonged to men, now soldiers abroad. She becomes the first female diver, the most dangerous and exclusive of occupations, repairing the ships that will help America win the war. One evening at a nightclub, she meets Dexter Styles again, and begins to understand the complexity of her father's life, the reasons he might have vanished.

***Saints for All Occasions*** (historical fiction) by J. Sullivan Courtney

*Harper's Bazaar Best Book of 2017*

Nora and Theresa Flynn are twenty-one and seventeen when they leave their small village in Ireland and journey to America. Nora is the responsible sister; she's shy and serious and engaged to a man she isn't sure that she loves. Theresa is gregarious; she is thrilled by their new life in Boston and besotted with the fashionable dresses and dance halls on Dudley Street. But when Theresa ends up pregnant, Nora is forced to come up with a plan—a decision with repercussions they are both far too young to understand. Fifty years later, Nora is the matriarch of a big Catholic family with four grown children: John, a successful, if opportunistic, political consultant; Bridget, quietly preparing to have a baby with her girlfriend; Brian, at loose ends after a failed baseball career; and Patrick, Nora's favorite, the beautiful boy who gives her no end of heartache. Estranged from her sister, Theresa is a cloistered nun, living in an abbey in rural Vermont. Until, after decades of silence, a sudden death forces Nora and Theresa to confront the choices they made so long ago. A graceful, supremely moving novel from one of our most beloved writers, *Saints for All Occasions* explores the fascinating, funny, and sometimes achingly sad ways a secret at the heart of one family both breaks them and binds them together.

***The Secret Keeper*** (fiction) by Kate Morton

During a summer party at the family farm in the English countryside, sixteen-year-old Laurel has escaped to her childhood tree house. She spies a stranger coming up the road to the farm and watches as her mother speaks to him. Before the afternoon is over, Laurel will witness a shocking crime that challenges everything she knows about her family, especially her loving mother, Dorothy. Now, fifty years later, the family is gathering at the family farm for Dorothy's ninetieth birthday. This may be the last chance Laurel has to discover her mother's secret past which spans from pre-WWII England through the blitz, to the '60s and beyond. It is the hidden history of three strangers—Dorothy, Vivien, and Jimmy—who meet by chance in wartime London and whose lives are forever entwined.

***Shoemaker's Wife*** (fiction) by Adriana Trigiani

Based partially on Trigiani's grandparent's life, this sprawling story set at the turn of the twentieth century follows two teenagers' lives from the small villages in the Italian Alps, to New York City and finally to the plains of northern Minnesota. Enza, a practical beauty, and Ciro, a hardworking, fun loving young man who grew up working for the sisters in a small convent near Enza's family in the mountains of northern Italy, meet as teenagers and fall in love. When Ciro catches the local priest in a scandal, he is banished from his village and sent to hide in America as an apprentice to a shoemaker in Little Italy. Not knowing what happened to Ciro, Enza's too, is forced to go to America with her father to earn enough money to support their struggling family. The devoted lovers join and separate, until, finally, the power of their love brings them together in a touching finale.

***Thirteenth Tale*** (fiction) by Diane Setterfield

Biographer Margaret Lea returns one night to her apartment above her father's antiquarian bookshop. On her steps she finds a hand-written request from one of Britain's most prolific and well-loved novelists. Vida Winter, who is gravely ill, wants to recount her life story to Margaret before it is too late. The request takes Margaret by surprise since she doesn't know the author, or her work. After accepting the request, Margaret learns Miss Winter's dark family secrets surrounding Angelfield, the now burnt-out estate that was her childhood home. As Margaret records Miss Winter's history, she finds herself more deeply immersed in the strange and troubling story that introduces her to her own ghosts from the past.

***Truevine: Two Brothers, a Kidnapping, and a Mother's Quest: A True Story of the Jim Crow South*** (non-fiction) by Beth Macy

The true story of two African-American brothers who were kidnapped and displayed as circus freaks, and whose mother endured a 28-year struggle to get them back.

The year was 1899 and the place a sweltering tobacco farm in the Jim Crow South town of Truevine, Virginia. George and Willie Muse were two little boys born to a sharecropper family. One day a white man offered them a piece of candy, setting off events that would take them around the world and change their lives forever.

Captured into the circus, the Muse brothers performed for royalty at Buckingham Palace and headlined over a dozen sold-out shows at New York's Madison Square Garden. They were global superstars in a pre-broadcast era. But the very root of their success was in the color of their skin and in the outrageous caricatures they were forced to assume: supposed cannibals, sheep-headed freaks, even "Ambassadors from Mars." Back home, their mother never accepted that they were "gone" and spent 28 years trying to get them back.

Through hundreds of interviews and decades of research, Beth Macy expertly explores a central and difficult question: Where were the brothers better off? On the world stage as stars or in poverty at home? TRUEVINE is a compelling narrative rich in historical detail and rife with implications to race relations today.

***Underground Railroad*** (fiction) by Colson Whitehead

*Winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award*

Life is hell for all the slaves, but especially bad for Cora; an outcast even among her fellow Africans, she is coming into womanhood—where even greater pain awaits. When Caesar, a recent arrival from Virginia, tells her about the Underground Railroad, they decide to take a terrifying risk and escape. In Whitehead's ingenious conception, the Underground Railroad is no mere metaphor—engineers and conductors operate a secret network of tracks and tunnels beneath the Southern soil. Cora and Caesar's first stop is South Carolina, in a city that initially seems like a haven. But the city's placid surface masks an insidious scheme designed for its black denizens. And even worse: Ridgeway, the relentless slave catcher, is close on their heels. Forced to flee again, Cora embarks on a harrowing flight, state by state, seeking true freedom.

***We Need New Names*** (fiction) by NoViolet Bulawayo

*formerly of Kalamazoo*

The unflinching and powerful story of a young girl's journey out of Zimbabwe and to America. Darling is only ten years old, and yet she must navigate a fragile and violent world. In Zimbabwe, Darling and her friends steal guavas, try to get the baby out of young Chipso's belly and grasp at memories of Before. Before their homes were destroyed by paramilitary policemen, before the school closed, before the fathers left for dangerous jobs abroad. But Darling has a chance to escape: she has an aunt in America. She travels to this new land in search of America's famous abundance only to find that her options as an immigrant are perilously few. NoViolet Bulawayo's debut calls to mind the great storytellers of displacement and arrival who have come before her—from Junot Diaz to Zadie Smith to J.M. Coetzee—while she tells a vivid, raw story all her own. Shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize.