Notable Books
The 2007 Selection of Titles

This list has been compiled for use by the general reader and by librarians who work with adults. The Notable Books Council, ALA Reference and User Services Association, has selected the titles 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 2005 through November 2006.

NONFICTION


Bechdel’s memoir, done in graphic-novel form, masterfully illustrates her relationship with her closeted homosexual father.


Egan vividly recounts the Dust Bowl of the 1930s, a time in America when weather and human fallibility changed the arc of people’s lives.


In this stirring call to action, biologist Flannery provides an overview of the impact that global warming has on the environment and suggests possible solutions.


The scope of the AIDS epidemic is illustrated through the heartwarming story of Haregewoin Teferra, a humanitarian who runs an orphanage in Ethiopia.


An American journalist compellingly contrasts China’s past, as revealed through ancient artifacts, with the fiercely competitive spirit of the new generation.

FROM COMMITTEES OF RUSA

Times-Picayune reporter Horne skillfully attempts to untangle a disaster and its aftermath through victims’ personal stories.


King provides a detailed and engaging look at an evolving art movement, set against a time of French political upheaval.


Drawing from interviews with front-line scientists, Kolbert calmly and persuasively demonstrates the extent of global warming.


Philbrick dramatically brings to life, and corrects common misconceptions about, the Pilgrim settlement of Plymouth.

Phillips, Julie. *James Tiptree, Jr.: The Double Life of Alice B. Sheldon.* St. Martin’s, $27.95 (0-312-20385-3).

Using interviews and personal correspondences, Phillips creates a riveting profile of a celebrated sci-fi writer who found more fulfillment in her alias’ life than in her own.

Zoellner, Tom. *The Heartless Stone: A Journey through the World of Diamonds, Deceit, and Desire.* St. Martin’s, $24.95 (0-312-33969-0).

From war-ravaged Africa to the frigid Arctic, and to America's shopping malls, a globe-trotting journalist exposes the hardships and hype underlying the diamond industry.

Fiction

Bigsby, Christopher. *Beautiful Dreamer.* St. Martin’s/Thomas Dunne, $21.95 (0-312-35583-1).

In this taut, spare parable, a white man tries to prevent the lynching of a black man and gets caught up in a vortex of violent reprisal.

Dean, Debra. *The Madonnas of Leningrad.* Morrow, $23.95 (0-06-082530-8).

Dean artfully parallels a woman’s descent into Alzheimer's and her role in the concealment of paintings at the Hermitage during the siege of Leningrad.


Frustration and loss color the lives of five Indian people. Their interwoven stories, from rural India to Manhattan, are told in lush language with ironic humor.


Rural Montana in 1909 is the central character in this humorous novel of life on the prairie. Change moves in with a widow from Minneapolis.


Convicted of theft and transported to Australia, an Englishman creates a new life for himself and his family in this potent story of dreams transformed.


In this provocative novel, a successful Arab-Israeli surgeon revisits his roots as he seeks understanding of his wife's death as a suicide bomber.


Twenty-nine-year-old conjoined twins who know they will soon die set out to record their story. In distinctly separate voices, they reveal lives intertwined yet independent.


In McCarthy’s unrelenting tale, a father and son struggle to survive on their journey through the deadly, empty winter of a postapocalyptic America.


In 1919, an escaped convict clashes with bizarre cultists and displaced Czech soldiers in a shocking, twist-filled tale set in a remote Siberian village.


Share English teen Jason Taylor’s ace adventures as he takes on unforgiving classmates, a wicked stammer, and the Falklands War, emerging as an unforgettable protagonist.


The 24 stories in this collection depict ordinary life at once vivid and surreal. Each story uncovers for the reader the vastness of the small moment.


Wry humor, melancholy, and poignant yearning suffuse this life story of an amazingly literate rat born in a Boston bookstore doomed by urban renewal.
POETRY

Flenniken, Kathleen. *Famous*. Univ. of Nebraska, paper, $17.95 (0-8032-6924-2).
These unpretentious and comfortable poems deal with everyday events and situations in a sometimes humorous and always fresh way.

These carefully crafted poems offer a lyrical account of the private and professional life of controversial fourteenth-century English scholar John Wyclif.

Slavitt, David R. *William Henry Harrison and Other Poems*. Louisiana State, paper, $16.95 (0-8071-3121-0).
Our nation’s most irrelevant president gets the last laugh in a volume of enlivening ruminations, ranging in form from majestic epics to one-word poems.