

Available Titles Book Club in a Bag

***Blindness* Jose Saramago**

“A city is hit by an epidemic of ‘white blindness’ whose victims are confined to a vacant mental hospital, while a single eyewitness to the nightmare guides seven oddly assorted strangers through the barren urban landscape.”**

***The Birth of Venus** Sarah Dunant**

“Turning fifteen in Renaissance Florence, Alessandra Cecchi becomes intoxicated with the works of a young painter whom her father has brought to the city to decorate the family’s Florentine palazzo.”**

***The Book Thief** Markus Zusak**

“Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel- a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.”**

***The Coffee Trader** David Liss**

“In 17th century Amsterdam, Miguel Lienzo, a Portuguese-Jewish trader desperate to recover his lost fortune, enters into a partnership with seductive Geertruid Damhuis to introduce coffee to the city and confronts a ruthless adversary.”**

***The Dork of Cork** Chet Raymo**

Frank Bois, at 43 years and 43 inches tall is an amateur astronomer and soon-to-be-celebrated author. An amusing melodrama of his life and loves, Frank’s story challenges our notions of the beautiful and the grotesque. Raymo, a former physics professor at Stonehill College, has also written science articles for the Boston Globe.

***Mayflower: A Story of Courage, Community, and War** Nathaniel Philbrick**

“National Book Award winner Philbrick studies two generations of Pilgrims, from the original 102 passengers who arrived in 1620 to the handful of survivors of the 1675 King Philip's War. This bestseller describes the initial storm-tossed voyage, starvation and disease in the wilderness, and the help- and duplicity- of the natives.”

***The Shadow of the Wind** Carlos Ruiz Zafon**

“A boy named Daniel selects a novel from a library of rare books, enjoying it so much that he searches for the rest of the author’s works, only to discover that someone is destroying every book the author has ever written.”** Ruiz Zafon makes Spain’s Barcelona unforgettable.

***The Sixteen Pleasures** Robert Hellenga**

Hellenga's characterization and intimate knowledge of Florence give this adventure/romance depth and intriguing background detail. When a young American book conservator finds a rare manuscript of erotica in a convent, the Mother Superior wants to sell it to raise money to save their valuable library.

***Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* Lisa See**

"A story of friendship set in nineteenth-century China follows an elderly woman and her companion as they communicate their hopes, dreams, joys, and tragedies through a unique secret language."**

***Suite Française** Irène Nemirovksy**

"Celebrated in pre-WWII France for her bestselling fiction, the Jewish Russian-born Nemirovsky was shipped to Auschwitz in the summer of 1942, months after this long-lost masterwork was composed. Nemirovksy, a convert to Catholicism, began a planned five-novel cycle as Nazi forces overran northern France in 1940. This gripping "suite," collecting the first two unpolished but wondrously literary sections of a work cut short, have surfaced more than six decades after her death." *Publishers Weekly*

***Tender at the Bone** Ruth Reichl**

Former New York Times critic Reichl has written a memoir that reads much like a novel. Her humorous and unpretentious prose gives us the stories of family members, friends, chefs, and gourmands who taught her to love food and life itself. "A perfectly balanced stew of memories: not too sweet, not too tart." *Kirkus Reviews*

***Tortilla Curtain* T. C. Boyle**

"The lives of two different couples – wealthy Los Angeles liberals Delaney and Kyra Mossbacher, and Candido and America Rincon, a pair of Mexican illegals- suddenly collide, in a story that unfolds from the shifting viewpoints of various characters." **

***The Whistling Season* Ivan Doig**

"Hired as a housekeeper to work on the early 1900s Montana homestead of widower Oliver Milliron, the irreverent Rose and her brother, Morris, endeavor to educate the widower's sons while witnessing local efforts on a massive irrigation project."**

* New title as of September, 2008

** Annotation from NoveList, a database available at the Weaver Library or www.eastprovidencelibrary.org

Contact Adult Services Librarian Joyce May at (401) 435-1986 or jmay@eplib.org for more information.