

Gift Guide 2009

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Fiction

The Year of the Flood by Margaret Atwood

Science Fiction. Climate change has brought destruction to the world Atwood first presented in *Oryx and Crake*. Rather than focus on the corrupt corporate elite who brought the downfall and now run the world, Atwood turns her eye to the “pleebs”—followers of a cult called God’s Gardeners who prophesied the disaster. This is a powerful and provocative examination of an all-too-believable post apocalyptic world.

The Manual of Detection by Jedediah Berry

Mystery/Fantasy. When his sleuth boss goes missing, competent but unambitious clerk Charles Unwin finds himself promoted to detective within the massive Agency. He investigates the disappearance in a rain-slicked city filled with somnambulists, decrepit carnivals, and crimes of a fantastic nature; a sinister underworld. There’s a retro-futuristic quality to this speculative mystery—a delightfully mind-bending mix of Kafka, Hitchcock and Jasper Fforde.

The Lost Symbol by Dan Brown

Popular Fiction. In the publishing event of the year, the popular author of *The Da Vinci Code* delivers another page-turning adventure featuring symbologist Robert Langdon. Called to Washington D.C. to give a speech, Langdon discovers that his good friend Peter Solomon’s life is in danger, and he is quickly drawn into bizarre happenings that involve an obsessed villain, ancient mysteries, Freemasonry, the CIA, noetic sciences and many of Washington’s famous architectural landmarks. Puzzles, mysteries and thrills abound.

South of Broad by Pat Conroy

Popular Fiction. An unlikely group of teens bond in the wake of the political and social upheaval during the late 1960s. Conroy masterfully weaves their diverse and messy tales, moving between the 1960s and 1980s, while capturing the southern sense of place that he knows so well. This is Conroy’s first book since *Beach Music*, published 14 years ago, and his many fans will turn the pages with great pleasure.

Tinkers by Paul Harding

Literary Fiction. A dying New England clock repairman spends his last days remembering his childhood life and the home he shared with his salesman father who suffered frightening epileptic fits. Harding's debut novel is a lyrical, multi-generational story of father-son relationships, richly drawn northern landscapes, and gorgeous, evocative writing.

In Other Rooms, Other Wonders by Daniyal Mueenuddin

Stories. This stunning debut collection of linked stories presents an uncommon view of Pakistani society by following the various scions of the wealthy Harouni family, which is now losing influence and prestige. An atmosphere of shame and melancholy surrounds this enclave of extended family, servants, schemers and opportunists. Mueenuddin's nuanced attention to detail and subtly rendered dialogue are particularly effective when exploring social inequalities and the treatment of women.

A Rule Against Murder by Louise Penny

Mystery. Chief Inspector Armand Gamache and his wife celebrate their wedding anniversary at Manoir Bellechasse in Quebec, but the dysfunctional Finney family disrupts their stay. Gamache deems it murder when a recently installed statue of the Finney patriarch falls and kills Finney's daughter, Julia. Vivid characterization, atmospheric writing and brilliant plot development make for another excellent mystery by Penny.

Cookbooks

Rose's Heavenly Cakes by Rose Levy Beranbaum

An all new companion to *The Cake Bible*, Beranbaum's *Rose's Heavenly Cakes* is just that: a heavenly collection of easy-to-follow, kitchen-tested recipes accompanied by 100 tempting color photographs. This is a wonderful volume of tried-and-true unintimidating confections by a master baker, beautiful in every sense.

Money Saving Meals: 200 Delicious Ways to Eat on the Cheap by Betty Crocker

One of several recently published books stressing quality and taste on a budget, Betty Crocker's newest collection of 200 recipes includes a useful cost per serving calculated for each recipe. Smart shopping techniques and pantry planning are also included in this handy volume of satisfying, easy-to-prepare meals.

The Flavors of Asia by the Culinary Institute of America and Mai Pham

A valuable resource for those interested in Asian cuisine, this beautiful book is packed with both traditional and new recipes from India, China, Japan, Singapore, Vietnam, Thailand and Korea. Illustrated discussions of regional culinary history, ingredients, cooking techniques and kitchen tools are included.

Nigella Christmas: Food, Family, Friends, Festivities by Nigella Lawson

Lawson's newest offering is both a visual treat and a culinary inspiration for the Christmas season. Covering delicious menus to feed friends and family from canapés to desserts, she helps the chef survive the season with minimum stress and maximum enjoyment. In addition to traditional meals centered on ham and turkey, Lawson also highlights a vegetarian Christmas feast.

Baking by James Peterson

Lavishly illustrated with step-by-step "how to" photographs, *Baking* provides a master course in baking fundamentals to help even the novice chef prepare incredibly delicious, perfect cakes, cookies, tarts, breads and pastries.

How to Roast a Lamb: New Greek Classic Cooking by Michael Psilakis

Filled with wonderful stories of the author's Greek-American family life and delicious traditional and updated recipes, this is a gorgeously illustrated collection of Greek cooking at its best. And yes, the instructions for roasting a whole lamb are included!

The Harvest Eating Cookbook by Keith Snow

A companion to the PBS series *Harvest Eating with Chef Snow*, this beautifully illustrated book is a self-professed "antidote to fast food." Healthy, delicious recipes stress the economic and health benefits of eating locally with fresh ingredients.

Children, Tweens & Teens

Children grades Pre-K to 2

The Circus Ship by Chris Van Dusen

The richly detailed artwork in this book has a classic look, inviting kids to look carefully to find hidden surprises in its pages. When a ship carrying exotic circus animals sinks, they all manage to swim to a little island and move right in to the small town. The island people get used to having monkeys hanging on their clotheslines and hippos in their pond, and they find hilarious ways to hide the animals when the circus owner shows up to claim them.

The Dinosaur Tamer by Carol Greathouse

A young cowboy in a land of dinosaurs shows that he's the best "rip roarin'" dinosaur tamer ever! Riding a plesiosaurus, Rocky tours his dinosaur world until he is challenged by T. Rex. It takes lots of tricks to tame the fiercest dinosaur of all. Lively illustrations take kids on a combination dinosaur and Old-West adventure.

Fancy Nancy: Splendiferous Christmas by Jane O'Connor and Robin Preiss Glasser

Ultra-fancy Nancy is thrilled by everything about Christmas—making sparkly things, dressing up and decorating are her favorite things to do. But everyone else in her family just likes things plain. In this special holiday season, Nancy finds new challenges and surprises.

Jan Brett's Snowy Treasury by Jan Brett

Brett's new collection of magical stories is set in wintertime, and her vibrant and detailed pictures will surely fascinate children. Stories from the Ukraine, Switzerland, Denmark and the Arctic feature these favorites: "Gingerbread Baby," "The Mitten," "The Three Snow Bears," and "The Hat." They are filled with delightful animal antics.

Children grades 3 to 5

A Field Guide to Fairies: Explore the Secret World of the Fairy Realm by Susannah Marriott

Marriott's enchanting book presents hauntingly beautiful depictions of fairy habits and hiding places as well as the lore and legends of fairies from around the world. Lush full-color illustrations bring this magical world to life, including three double-page pop-up scenes.

The Genie Scheme by Kimberly Jones

Janna and her Mom never have enough money for all the things they want, so Janna dreams about what she'd do if they won the lottery. But then a real genie comes into her life and offers her wishes. Kids will laugh at the outrageous things that happen as Janna tries to transform her life, and the sharp-tongued genie is an unforgettable character.

My Rotten Life (Nathan Abercrombie, Accidental Zombie) by David Lubar

Ten-year-old Nathan always gets picked last in gym class, but when he gets dosed with an experimental serum that turns him into a zombie, things really get exciting. Being "half-dead" means that he can do super-human things, but he's not sure that he wants to spend the rest of his life as a zombie. Fantastic and funny, with lots of gross humor, this is sure to be a hit with boys.

Oceanology by Emily Hawkins, Ferdinand deLessups and Dugald Steer

An undersea voyage in a submarine begins this fantastic story, with superb artwork that includes pop-ups, envelopes and fold-outs. Kids will discover facts about sharks, undersea volcanoes, coral reefs and marine biology as they turn the pages of this colorful and amazing book. They will also learn about the legends of sea monsters and the lost city of Atlantis. Other books in this "ology" series such as "Dragonology" and "Egyptology" have been children's best-sellers.

Tweens

Eleven by Patricia Reilly Giff

A finely crafted mystery that will immediately hook boys and girls, this story begins with a locked box, a newspaper clipping and a boy discovering secrets about his past. Sam is almost 11, and he's not sure he wants to be friends with a girl. Caroline, however, demonstrates uncanny skill in helping him investigate hidden clues to unravel the mystery of why he was once a "missing child."

Luv Ya Bunches by Lauren Myracle

Four girls starting fifth grade seem to have very little in common, but the dramas and tensions of school bring them together. Katie-Rose, Yasaman, Milla and Violet are all strong girls with special skills and talents who are proud of their different ethnic backgrounds. The book is written in the form of instant messages, blogs, journals and narrative. Girls will instantly be drawn into the story. This is the first of a series of four books about the girls, and readers can go to their special website (www.luvyabunches.com) to "try an outfit on," "choose a game," and interact with the characters in different ways.

Percy Jackson and the Olympians Series by Rick Riordan

This popular series is now available in boxed sets, in both paperback and hardcover, with fantastic cover art that sets the mood for these stories of adventure and quest. It begins with Perseus (“Percy”) Jackson discovering that he is actually a demigod, a son of the Greek ocean god Poseidon and a mortal mother. As Percy struggles with finding his own powers and his destiny, he faces battles with the Minotaur, Medusa, and a terrifying cast of characters from mythology. Imaginative and suspenseful, these books compel tween readers to examine different paths that they can forge through their own lives. In the fifth volume, the prophecies about Percy’s quest bring him new challenges and courage.

Sent (The Missing, Book 2) by Margaret Peterson Haddix

This companion book to *Found (The Missing, Book 1)* continues the exciting suspense story of Jonah and Chip, and the 13-year-old mystery of a strange plane that landed with a baby strapped into every seat, and no adults on board. In this second book the boys are thrust back in time to the 15th century where they supposedly belong, but fearful things await them there as they try to “fix time.” This finely crafted story will compel kids to keep reading.

Teens

Catching Fire by Suzanne Collins

A continuation of the story that began with *The Hunger Games*, these two books make a dynamic pair to give to a teen reader. The story is set in a future society where the wealthy and powerful watch brutal reality television where teen recruits from the poor districts battle to the death. These boys and girls are thrown into an environment seething with danger as they are forced to hunt and kill each other. Katniss has the skills and grit to survive, but she and a boy named Peeta begin to feel a bond with each other despite the rule that only one can survive. Katniss’ strength and rebelliousness challenges the entire power structure.

CrocodileTears: An Alex Rider Novel by Anthony Horowitz

Alex Rider is a teen secret agent with high-tech training and weapons provided by M-16, a British government agency. This is the latest in the series about Alex, as he battles a terrorist who seeks to use genetically engineered viral weapons. A James Bond-style thriller that bursts with action and details about spying and combat.

Evermore by Alyson Noel

Sixteen-year-old Ever survives a car accident and finds herself totally changed. Suddenly she has psychic powers, can hear people's thoughts, and can see their auras. Her new abilities overwhelm her, and she wants to hide to avoid getting too close to anyone. Then she meets Damen, an even more powerful psychic. She is intensely attracted to him even though she is not sure who or what he is. This book is the first in a trilogy that also includes *Blue Moon* and *Shadowland*.

Shiver by Maggie Stiefvater

For years Grace has watched the wolves that live in the forest near her home, especially the one with the yellow eyes that seem to be watching her too. She discovers that he is actually Sam, a young teen werewolf who longs to spend time with her but is trapped by his fate.

The Great Northwest

Love Israel Family: Urban Commune, Rural Commune by Charles LeWarne

In 1968 a former television salesman changed his name to Love Israel and started a controversial religious commune in Seattle's Queen Anne Hill neighborhood. The Love Israel Family later became a fixture of the Arlington community. LeWarne's sensitive and balanced investigation into the family's trials, tribulations and daily lives is a must-read for anyone interested in American religious history.

Women's Votes, Women's Voices: the Campaign for Equal Rights in Washington by Shanna Stevenson

This slim, picture-packed volume celebrates the centennial of Washington women's right to vote. Stevenson tells the inspiring stories of "women who made a difference" in Washington history. This book would make a great gift for the women who have made a difference in your life.

The Collector: David Douglas and the Natural History of the Northwest by Jack Nisbet

David Douglas, namesake of the Douglas fir, was the Northwest's premier botanical explorer in the early 19th century. *The Collector* is a wonderful biography as well as a history of early exploration and nature in this region.

Preston Singletary: Echoes, Fire, and Shadows by Melissa G. Post

Preston Singletary's artwork blends European glass-blowing techniques with Northwest Native design to honor his Tlingit heritage in glass. This stunning retrospective of Singletary's career includes a bonus DVD featuring Singletary at work in his studio.

Sonic Boom: the History of Northwest Rock, from "Louie Louie" to "Smells Like Teen Spirit" by Peter Blecha

Written by "Seattle's rock 'n' roll historian," this book is sure to please any music lover. An eight-page discography of recommended Northwest rock recordings is the perfect coda to this thoroughly researched volume.

Calamity: The Heppner Flood of 1903 by Joann Green Byrd

Joann Byrd, a former executive editor of *The Everett Herald*, recounts the true story of a flash flood that ravished a small Oregon farm town in 1903. Nearly one-fifth of the town's population was killed, and every survivor lost a loved one. This tale is at once gripping and poignant--a fascinating read with resonance today.

Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition: Washington's First World's Fair by Alan Stein

In 1909, over 3 million visitors traveled to Seattle for Washington's first world's fair. This beautifully illustrated coffee table book chronicles all the important dates and events and random trivia associated with the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition. You don't need to read this book cover-to-cover in order to fully enjoy it.

Music

Rock, Pop, and R&B

Infectious chart-toppers you may have missed.

Dear Agony by Breaking Benjamin
Memoirs of an Imperfect Angel by Mariah Carey
I Look to You by Whitney Houston
The Resistance by Muse
The E.N.D. by Black Eyed Peas
Fantasy Ride by Ciara
All I Ever Wanted by Kelly Clarkson
No Line on the Horizon by U2

Smooth Sounds

Definite must-haves for anyone looking to unwind with soft, soothing vocals.

Love is the Answer by Barbara Streisand
Breakthrough by Coblle Caillat
Quiet Nights by Diana Krall
The Fall by Norah Jones

Indie Sensations

Everyone knows someone who only listens to lesser-known, but fabulous, artists. Impress them—give them the gift of great music.

Spirit of Apollo by N.A.S.A.
Bomb in a Birdcage by A Fine Frenzy
Everybody by Ingrid Michaelson
I'm Going Away by The Fiery Furnaces
LP by Discovery
Some Sweet Relief by Speck Mountain
Veckatimest by Grizzly Bear

Compilations

Perfect for the music lover in your life with varied musical interests.

Now That's What I Call Music. 31 by Various
Dark Was the Night by Various
Whip It Soundtrack by Various

Where the Wild Things Are Soundtrack by Various
War Child Presents Heroes by Various
Pixar Greatest Hits by Various

Greatest Hits Collections

Often packed with rare tracks that have never been heard before, these collections are sure to impress even the biggest fan.

Total Pop! The First 40 Hits by Erasure
Celebration by Madonna
Rocket Man: Number Ones by Elton John
Playlist: the Very Best of Lyfe Jennings by Lyfe Jennings
#1s...And Then Some by Brooks and Dunn
Ten: Legacy Edition by Pearl Jam

Holiday

This list wouldn't be complete without highlighting those fantastic collections of holiday tunes that will really get you into the spirit of the season.

My Christmas by Andrea Bocelli
A Cherry Cherry Christmas by Neil Diamond
Green and Gold by Sugarland
Christmas from the Heart by David Archuleta
This Christmas by Michael McDonald
Four Christmases Soundtrack by Various
Christmas with Sinatra and Friends by Frank Sinatra