



Season's Readings 2014

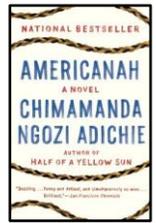
From the Staff of Post Learning Commons and Drexel Library

Anne
Krakow

Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Americanah tells the story of Ifemelu and Obinze, a high school-age couple each with dreams of leaving Nigeria for the West. Over the span of fifteen years, Ifemelu and Obinze experience the West with very different results. When strikes in Nigeria close their college campus, Ifemelu heads to America and finds academic success while Obinze travels to London but can only find work illegally when his visa expires. In America, Ifemelu first experiences racism and begins a blog exploring these issues. While at first glance the book seems like a love story, Adichie's novel is also a frank, honest look at race in America and the present-day immigrant experience of trying to find a way in a different world.

[*Americanah*](#)



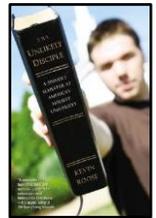
Sarah Bolce

The Unlikely Disciple: A Sinner's Semester at America's Holiest University

by Kevin Roose

Kevin Roose was a student at Brown University who decided to cross a collegiate cultural divide and spend a semester at Liberty University, the conservative Christian university founded by the late Jerry Falwell.

[*The Unlikely Disciple*](#)

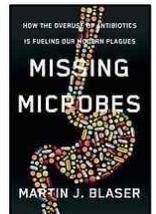


Cynthia
Slater

Missing Microbes: How the Overuse of Antibiotics Is Fueling Our Modern Plagues

by Martin J. Blaser, M.D.

Blaser argues that our overuse of antibiotics has fueled modern plagues including diabetes, obesity, IBS, asthma, and food allergies. This book is part of the Library collection: [*Missing Microbes*](#)

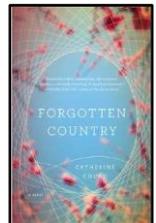


Naomi
Cohen

Forgotten Country by Catherine Chung

Janie (Jeehyun) is trying to complete a Ph.D. in Mathematics when her ailing father begs her to bring her estranged younger sister back home. A tender story of immigration and return, family ties and the possibilities for healing.

[*Forgotten Country*](#)



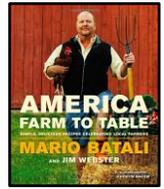
**Marian
Courtney**

America – Farm to Table: Simple, Delicious Recipes Celebrating Local Farmers

by Mario Batali and Jim Webster

Visually stunning and “peppered” with interviews with farmers and chefs from regions across the US. Included are enticing recipes for the everyday cook; a good choice for the foodie on your list. This book is part of the Library collection:

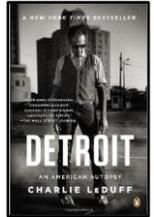
[*America - Farm to Table*](#)



Detroit: An American Autopsy by Charlie LeDuff

Poignant and humorous, this deeply personal exposé of the “Motor City” will tug at your heartstrings. This book is part of the Library collection:

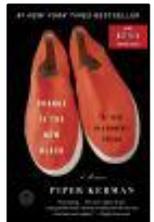
[*Detroit: An American Autopsy*](#)



**Stephanie
Riley**

Orange is the New Black by Piper Kerman

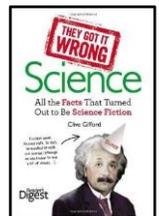
This book is the basis and inspiration for the eponymous Netflix TV series. It’s a great window into prison life from a newly convicted female federal inmate; it also calls into question why we as a nation lock up so many people. This book is part of the Library collection: [*Orange is the New Black*](#)



**Michael
Brooks**

They Got It Wrong: Science: All the Facts that Turned out to be Science Fiction by Graeme Donald

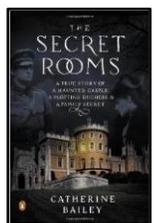
They Got It Wrong is a fun read. It provides some rather interesting information regarding science and scientific thought, coupled with the beliefs and thought processes of philosophers, religious leaders, politicians, charlatans, and the social mores of their times. Not intended to be entirely serious, *They Got It Wrong* takes a pragmatic approach and views the historical development of the scientific process under a magnifying glass, giving the open-minded reader food for thought. The book does spend a lot of time examining things from the Eurocentric perspective. A more inclusive approach encompassing a more multicultural and world-centric view would give the reader a broader picture of where one culture got it right while another got it wrong. [*They Got It Wrong: Science*](#)



**Christopher
Dixon**

The Secret Rooms: A True Story of a Haunted Castle, a Plotting Duchess, and a Family Secret by Catherine Bailey

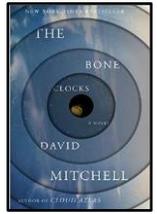
John Manners, the ninth Duke of Rutland, organized a meticulous family history archive at Belvoir (pronounced “Beaver”) Castle, but did he use it to hide a series of painful personal secrets that he wanted hidden forever? There is the mysterious death of his much beloved older brother, a torturous childhood, an altered First World War service record and an unusual break-in by a female burglar. Devotees of Downton Abbey will enjoy every twist and turn as unraveled by Bailey. There is even a subplot that includes a Drexel Family heiress in British Society. [*The Secret Rooms*](#)



**Catherine
Collins**

The Bone Clocks by David Mitchell

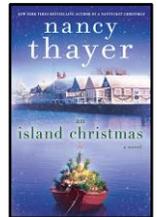
David Mitchell's writing can best be described as a rich chocolate cake -- complicated, dark, and beautifully turned out. Like Mitchell's most well-known novel, *Cloud Atlas*, *The Bone Clocks* brings together several seemingly unconnected storylines with a single element, in this case the mystery behind a child's disappearance in 1984. It includes time-jumping, multiple first-person narratives, and a fantastical element that brings to mind both Philip Pullman's classic *His Dark Materials* trilogy and Susanna Clarke's beautiful *Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norrell*. *The Bone Clocks* was nominated for the 2014 Man Booker Prize for Fiction. [The Bone Clocks](#)



**Martha
VanAuken**

An Island Christmas by Nancy Thayer

In this enchanting holiday novel from *New York Times* bestselling author Nancy Thayer, family and friends gather on Nantucket for a gorgeous winter wedding with plenty of merry surprises in store. As the big day approaches and Jilly's older daughter, Lauren, appears with rambunctious kids in tow, tensions in the household are high. With the family careening toward a Yuletide wedding disaster, an unexpected twist in this heartwarming tale reminds everyone about the true meaning of the season. This book is part of the Library collection: [An Island Christmas](#)



Happy
Holidays