



JUST A GOOD CANADIAN READ



Chop Suey Nation (non-fiction)

Hui drives from Victoria to Fogo Island to explore the Canadian phenomenon of small-town Chinese restaurants and discovers surprises in her own family history

Ann Hui

Claws of the Panda (non-fiction) ^

veteran journalist chronicles the Chinese Communist Party's efforts to exert undue influence on Canadian government, education and business to its own advantage

Jonathan Manthorpe

Dear Evelyn ^

compelling and unconventional love story that examines how two very different people, meeting just before WWII, shape and reshape each other over a lifetime

Kathy Page

Feeding My Mother (non-fiction) ^

frank, funny and inspirational chronicle of the popular musician's care of her aging parents, which became even more complicated when her mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's

Jann Arden

French Exit * ^

in this darkly humorous caper, Frances Price, Upper East Side widow, flees to Paris with her ne'er-do-well adult son and aging cat to escape scandal and bankruptcy

Patrick DeWitt

Homes: A Refugee Story (non-fiction) ^

an intimate view of the Syrian civil war through the eyes of a ten-year-old boy as he struggles to play, pray and survive as the city of Homs collapses around him

Abu Bakr al Rabeeah

The Italian Teacher ^

Charles grows up in the shadow of his artist father, the great Bear Bavinsky , a modern master and egotistical genius, who abandoned him and his mother

Tom Rachman

Jan in 35 Pieces (non-fiction)

internationally acclaimed Vancouver cellist recounts his years of music and camaraderie in this entertaining and informative memoir

Ian Hampton

Jonny Appleseed ^

Jonny, a young Two-Spirit/Indiqueer trying to survive in the big city, re-examines his life as he prepares to return to the rez for a funeral; 'a miraculous achievement of a debut novel'

Joshua Whitehead

Nothing Like Love

secret lovers, feuding families, an army of busybodies and a desperate solution or two in a village in Trinidad in 1974 all make for a sparkling and witty tale

Sabrina Ramnanan

An Ocean of Minutes * ^

when her lover catches the deadly flu sweeping across America, Polly agrees to a one-way trip into the future as a bonded labourer to pay for the treatment; the lovers set on a time and place to rendezvous but then Polly is re-routed

Thea Lim

Our Homesick Songs * ^

the Connors are the last family left in Big Running, Newfoundland after the collapse of the cod fishery; when his sister Cora disappears as well, ten-year-old Finn must find a way of calling home the family and life he has lost

Emma Hooper

The Quintland Sisters

impeccably researched, this is the strange and heart-rending story of the Dionne Quintuplets told from the perspective of a fictional caregiver, Emma Trimpany

Shelley Wood

Red Word ^

college sophomore Karen is caught between two increasingly polarized camps – the 'party central' fraternity of her boyfriend and the feminist activism of her own Raghurst House

Sarah Henstra

The Saturday Night Ghost Club ^

in this haunting examination of the mutability of memory, neurosurgeon Jake Baker recalls the life-altering summer when he was twelve and investigated macabre urban myths in Niagara Falls with his eccentric uncle

Craig Davidson

Starlight ^

a woman and her child, on the run from an abusive husband, find refuge on a farm in BC's remote back country that belongs to Frank Starlight, a First Nations man with wounds of his own

Richard Wagamese

Vi

fleeing the Vietnam War, Vi, along with her mother and siblings, make it to Canada but while her family puts down roots, Vi continues to test personal boundaries and cross international ones

Kim Thuy

Warlight * ^

looking back, Nathaniel tries to understand why he and his sister, teenagers at the time, were abandoned by their parents in 1945 and left in the dubious care of a mysterious figure known as The Moth

Michael Ondaatje

Washington Black ^

a young Barbadian field slave begins an epic adventure in 1830 when he becomes the manservant of Englishman Christopher Wilde – explorer, naturalist and inventor

Esi Edugyan

The Woo-Woo (non-fiction) ^

a darkly comic memoir about coming of age in a dysfunctional Asian family who blame their woes on ghosts and demons when they should really be on anti-psychotic meds

Lindsay Wong

* also available in spoken word CD format

^ also available a downloadable ebook and/or audiobook



WHEN YOU WANT TO THINK ABOUT IT



The Broken Ladder (non-fiction)

an examination by a leading scientist of the physical, psychological and moral effects of inequality just as the current levels of inequality are reaching a scale not seen since the 1800s

Keith Payne

The Line Becomes a River (non-fiction) ^

Cantu, a 2nd-generation Mexican-American, tells of his experience on the Border Patrol, cutting through the stereotypes surrounding 'the wall' to probe what's really at stake

Francisco Cantu

Educated (non-fiction) * ^

born into a survivalist family in the Idaho wilderness, Westover was determined to become educated – self-taught, her first day of university was her first day of school

Tara Westover

The Perfectionists (non-fiction)

the bestselling author traces how and why precision engineering was key to the development of technology from the Industrial to the Digital Age and explores its effects on human culture

Simon Winchester

Erotic Stories for Punjabi Widows * ^

a creative writing class, mistaken for an ESL class by a group of Sikh women, has them expressing untold stories, stories which scandalize the Brothers, their community's moral police

Balli Kaur Jaswal

The Rise and Fall of the Dinosaurs (non-fiction) ^

based on cutting-edge research, a paleontologist tells the complete, surprising and new 200 million year history of the dinosaurs in this masterpiece of scientific writing

Stephen Brusatte

The Female Persuasion * ^

freshman Greer Kadetsky's meeting with feminist Faith Frank changes her life in this look at contemporary feminism, its history and its ramifications for both men and women

Meg Wolitzer

She Has Her Mother's Laugh (non-fiction)

a profoundly original perspective on what we pass along from generation to generation – heredity isn't just about genes, it continues within our own bodies

Carl Zimmer

Friday Black (stories) ^

amazing and unforgettable stories that tackle racism, consumerism, feminism and family while still staying intimate and, somehow, hopeful

Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah

The Tattooist of Auschwitz * ^

based on interviews with Holocaust survivor Ludwig Sokolov, this is the story of a Slovakian Jew who was forced to tattoo his fellow prisoners, one of whom he falls in love with

Heather Morris

Girls Burn Brighter ^

Poornima is determined to find her friend Savitha, who was driven out of their village by a devastating act of cruelty, in this beautiful and harrowing story of friendship

Shobha Rao

Text Me When You Get Home (non-fiction)

thoughtful, heart-soaring look at how women are rejecting stereotypes and taking a stand for their female friendships and not letting go

Kayleen Schaefer

The Great Believers ^

in this multi-award winning novel, two intertwining stories chronicle the AIDs epidemic from its initial outbreak to its present day repercussions making it achingly human

Rebecca Makai

There There * ^

the history and experience of First Nations is embodied in the personal stories of various people coming to the Big Oakland Powwow in this relentlessly paced, truly amazing debut novel

Tommy Orange

The House of Broken Angels ^

ailing patriarch Miguel Angel de La Cruz summons his entire Mexican-American clan for one last legendary birthday party but then his mother dies, transforming the weekend into a raucous farewell doubleheader

Luis Alberto Urrea

Unsheltered * ^

a story of two families, living centuries apart in the same house, who share the need to find the resilience to survive in times of change

Barbara Kingsolver

How to Lose a Country (non-fiction)

subtitled 'The 7 Steps from Democracy to Dictatorship', this is a field guide to spotting the insidious patterns and mechanisms of the rightwing populist wave sweeping the globe

Ece Temelkuran

What We Owe

given only six months to live, an angry Nahid looks back at her life as an Iranian refugee in Sweden and her relationship with her newly pregnant daughter

Golnaz Hashemzadeh Bonde

I Will Always Write Back (non-fiction teen)

an all-American girl and a boy from Zimbabwe recount how they became best friends – and better people – through a school pen pal assignment

C. Alifirenka & M. Ganda

Wilding (non-fiction)

faced with the economic failure of their West Sussex farm, Tree and her husband tried a remarkable experiment: to allow 'natural ecological processes' to restore themselves, ie. they let it go wild

Isabella Tree

* also available in spoken word CD format

^ also available a downloadable ebook and/or audiobook



JUST FOR FUN



Ayesha at Last ^

outspoken Ayesha is irritatingly attracted to the conservative and judgmental Khalid in this sly salute to 'Pride and Prejudice' set in Toronto's Muslim community

Uzma Jalaluddin

Born a Crime (non-fiction) * ^

a moving and funny portrait of mixed-race Noah growing up in apartheid South Africa armed only with a keen sense of humour and a mother's unconditional love

Trevor Noah

The Bride Test

when autistic Khai Diep continues to avoid relationships, his mother takes matters into her own hands and returns to Vietnam to find him the perfect bride

Helen Hoang

Calypso (non-fiction) ^

from his new vacation home, the master of the humorous essay turns his observant eye on family, middle age and mortality

David Sedaris

Daisy Jones & The Six ^

in a fast-paced 'as-told-to' style, all the band members tell the story of the rise and fall of a major 1970s rock group and the secret reasons behind their dramatic break up

Taylor Jenkins Reid

The Dakota Winters

Anton Winter returns from the Peace Corps to his childhood home in New York's Dakota Building in the fall of 1979 in this portrait of talented and famous people and a city in flux

Tom Barbash

Fight No More (stories)

Nina, a lonely real estate agent in LA, is at the centre of a web of stories connecting fractured communities and families, and written in Millet's trademark caustic yet compassionate style

Lydia Millet

Forever and a Day * ^

in this exciting prequel to the legendary series, 007 is dead, shot in the French Riviera, and it's time for a new agent to step up, one James Bond, and earn his license to kill

Anthony Horowitz

Gingerbread

there may be more than meets the eye about working mother Harriet Lee and her daughter Perdita in this inventive and bewitching novel about a surprising family legacy, a recipe for gingerbread

Helen Oyeyemi

Help Me (non-fiction) ^

in this hilarious and heart-warming chronicle, the author decides to test the self-help world by picking a book a month and following its advice to the letter

Marianne Power

Hippie Food (non-fiction)

the colourful origins of once unconventional foods and the diverse fringe movements, charismatic gurus and counterculture elements that brought them to the mainstream

Jonathan Kauffman

The Last Equation of Isaac Severy

Hazel is charged by her grandfather, a mathematical genius dead in a supposed suicide, to find his last bombshell equation which he has carefully hidden

Nova Jacobs

The Library of Lost and Found ^

librarian Martha, single and middle-aged, leads a quiet life of helping others until a book of fairy tales arrives on her doorstep

Phaedra Patrick

The Music Shop * ^

a charming offbeat love story between a mystery woman and the lonely owner of a record store that explores the healing powers of music

Rachel Joyce

My Lady Jane (teen) ^

at sixteen, Lady Jane Grey is about to be married off to a stranger and caught up in a conspiracy to rob her cousin of the throne – the Tudors meet Monty Python in this comical and wacky revision of history

Cynthia Hand

Ninety-nine Glimpses of Princess Margaret (non-fiction)

a kaleidoscopic experiment in biography that combines interviews, diaries, lists, announcements and essays to create a witty and profound portrait of perhaps the most contradictory royal of them all

Craig Brown

Radiant Shimmering Light ^

Lilian enrolls in the Ascendancy, her cousin's self-actualization and empowerment program and drastically changes her life but is it the life she really wants?

Sarah Selecky

Seven Days of Us * ^

forced to spend a week in quarantine, a family's secrets and long-held tensions come to light but nothing is more shocking than the unexpected guest who's about to arrive

Francesca Hornak

The Story of Arthur Truluv

an emotionally powerful novel about three people who each lose the one they love most, only to find second chances where they least expect them

Elizabeth Berg

Three Things About Elsie

while waiting for rescue after a fall, 84-year-old Florence wonders if a terrible secret from her past is about to come to light and why the new resident in her retirement home looks exactly like a man who died sixty years ago

Joanna Cameron

* also available in spoken word CD format

^ also available a downloadable ebook and/or audiobook



WHEN YOU WANT TO GET AWAY



A Bite-Sized History of France (non-fiction)

from the cassoulet that won a war to the crepe that doomed Napoleon, the history of France is intimately entwined with its gastronomy; a witty exploration by a French cheesemonger and an American academic

S. Henaut & J. Mitchell

The Calculating Stars

in pre-women's lib 1952, a looming climate cataclysm has provoked an all-out effort to colonize space and Elma York is determined to become the first Lady Astronaut

Mary Robinette Kowal

The Dawn Watch (non-fiction)

in a compelling blend of history, biography and travelogue, the author follows Joseph Conrad's travels around the globe and the stories of his greatest works

Maya Jasanoff

Dear Mrs. Bird ^

during WWII, Emmy, secretary to advice columnist Henrietta Bird, begins to secretly reply to the correspondents whose problems are deemed too 'unpleasant' for the newspaper

A. J. Pearce

Force of Nature * ^

five women go on a corporate retreat in one of Australia's old growth forests but only four return, and each has a slightly different story about what happened

Jane Harper

A Gentleman in Moscow * ^

in 1922, Count Rostov, an aristocrat of erudition and wit who has never worked a day in his life, is sentenced by a Bolshevik tribunal to house arrest in an attic room in Moscow's Metropol Hotel

Amor Towles

The Girl They Left Behind

a sweeping family saga and a love story that offers a vivid and unique portrayal of war torn 1941 Bucharest and life behind the Iron Curtain during the Soviet occupation; loosely based on the author's mother's life

Roxanne Veletzos

The Gown * ^

Ann Hughes and Miriam Dassin, embroiderers at the famed Mayfair fashion house of Norman Hartnell, are chosen to work on Princess Elizabeth's wedding gown in this moving story about the power of female friendship

Jennifer Robson

How to Stop Time

Tom Hazard may look 41 but he's been alive for over four centuries and now love has him caught between the danger of discovery and the desire to build a real life

Matt Haig

The Huntress ^

in the aftermath of WWII, British Nazi hunter Ian Graham is on the trail of the Huntress, an infamous Nazi assassin, and asks ex-Soviet bomber pilot Nina Markova for help

Kate Quinn

L'Appart (non-fiction)

a world-renowned chef uses the perplexing experience of renovating his Paris apartment as a launching point for discussing French culture, food and life changes; recipes included!

David Lebovitz

The Lost Girls of Paris ^

Grace Healey sets out to discover the fate of a ring of female secret agents who acted as couriers and radio operators for the Resistance during WWII

Pam Jenoff

Marilla of Green Gables * ^

moving novel that imagines the life of Marilla Cuthbert and the choices and possibilities she faced as a young woman long before adopting a certain red-haired orphan

Sarah McCoy

Paris By the Book

Leah's husband vanishes, leaving behind plane tickets and an unfinished manuscript with clues; Leah and their daughters set off in pursuit and end up buying a bookstore in Paris

Liam Callanan

The Power ^

when adolescent girls discover they have an electrostatic force in their hands that can cause agonizing pain and even death, the once male-dominated world drastically resets

Naomi Alderman

The Rhine: Following Europe's Greatest River (non-fiction)

Coates blends travelogue and history to tell the fascinating story of how this 800 mile river helped shape a continent and its cultures

Ben Coates

Semiosis

multigenerational story about interspecies relationships begins with human colonists forced to land on a planet they are not prepared for on many levels

Sue Burke

The Silence of the Girls

told by Briseis, the captured queen awarded to Achilles as a slave, this is the Trojan War seen through the eyes of the women; voices silenced by history and power are finally heard

Pat Barker

The Taster

Magda is assigned to be one of the young women who taste Hitler's food for poison in his Bavarian mountain retreat where life is a strange mixture of terror and privilege

V. S. Alexander

The Water Cure ^

on an isolated island, three sisters have been raised to fear men but then their father disappears and two men and a boy wash ashore

Sophie Mackintosh

* also available in spoken word CD format

^ also available a downloadable ebook and/or audiobook



JUST A GOOD READ



Alternate Side * ^

a terrible incident upends Nora's complacent upper middle-class New York life, affecting her neighbourhood, her job and her marriage

Anna Quindlen

An American Marriage * ^

up and coming African-American newlyweds Celestial and Roy are ripped apart when Roy is convicted for a crime Celestial knows he didn't commit and sentenced to twelve years in prison

Tayari Jones

Asymmetry ^

brilliant and complex examination of power dynamics in love, war and work told in three distinct and uniquely compelling sections

Lisa Halliday

Bitter Orange

sinister domestic drama full of twisty surprises about lonely Frances who is befriended by a beautiful hedonistic couple in 1969

Claire Fuller

The Bookshop of Yesterdays ^

Miranda's eccentric Uncle Billy dies and leaves her his bookstore, which is teetering on bankruptcy, and the clues to one last scavenger hunt like those he created for her when she was a child

Amy Myerson

Clock Dance * ^

Willa Drake enters uncharted territory when she impulsively flies across the country to look after her son's ex-girlfriend and her daughter whom a neighbor has mistakenly assumed is Willa's granddaughter

Anne Tyler

Extinctions

at age 69, a retired engineer is forced to confront complex emotional relationships and the haunting questions he's avoided all his life in this call to find the courage to change

Josephine Wilson

Happiness ^

a chance London meeting between two very different people, an American biologist and a Ghanaian psychiatrist, leads to a search for a missing child immigrant and a meditation on the interconnectedness of all life

Aminatta Forna

The Immortalists ^

for the next fifty years, the lives of the four Gold siblings are informed by the prophecies they hear from a traveling psychic in their adolescence

Chloe Benjamin

The Life Lucy Knew ^

after hitting her head, Lucy Sparks awakens in the hospital to find all her memories are false – the life she's been leading is not the one she remembers and may not be the one she wants

Karma Brown

Little Fires Everywhere * ^

the values of two mothers clash when the picture-perfect Richardson family rents out a house to enigmatic artist and single mother Mia and her teenage daughter Pearl

Celeste Ng

One of Us Is Lying (teen) * ^

five students go to detention but only four leave alive in this tightly plotted and twisty high school whodunit; 'utterly irresistible'

Karen McManus

The Orphan of Salt Winds

the atmospheric story of marsh denizen Virginia Wrathmell told in dual timelines – as a ten year-old orphan and as a haunted old woman – and the mysterious and tragic events linking the two

Elizabeth Brooks

The Secrets Between Us

poor and illiterate, and now unfairly fired, Bhima must find a way to support herself and her granddaughter in present day Mumbai

Thrity Umrigar

She Rides Shotgun

Nate, fresh out of jail and driving a stolen car, kidnaps his eleven year-old daughter Polly in order to save her from the gang who are not only after him but have already murdered Polly's mother

Jordan Harper

The Silent Patient * ^

psychotherapist Faber is determined to find out why artist Alice Berenson shot and killed her fashion photographer husband and has refused to speak another word since

Alex Michaelides

The Sparsholt Affair ^

sweeping novel that explores the complex relationships between fathers and sons, and ideas of masculinity and artistic worth, across seven decades

Alan Hollinghurst

Still Lives ^

feminist and avant-garde artist Kim Lord doesn't make it to the opening of her new exhibition 'Still Lives' which is comprised of self-portraits depicting herself as famous murdered women

Maria Hummel

Transcription * ^

Juliet Armstrong's past as a spy tasked with transcribing the secretly taped meetings of British Fascist sympathizers during WWII comes back to haunt her ten years later

Kate Atkinson

Whistle in the Dark

Jen's fifteen year-old daughter, Lana, goes missing for four agonizing days; finally found, she refuses to talk about what happened but begins acting very strangely

Emma Healey

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