

Oprah's Book Club List Available in the County

(numbers of items are subject to change)

2016

reg = regular book, LP = large print, BCD = book on CD

1. Night Elie Wiesel 1982 120 p. Memoir 49 reg, 3 BCD, 1 LP

The year was 1944. The village of Sighet in Hungary had been grasped by the evil and unrelenting hand of Hitler. For the next year, young Elie Wiesel witnesses the agonizing, tortured death of all he loves -- family, friends and religious devotion. Birkenau, Auschwitz, Buna, Buchenwald. That he survived these death camps is a miracle even he finds impossible to comprehend.

2. Road, The Cormac McCarthy 2007 222 p FICTION 26 reg, 3 BCD, 3 LP

A father and his son are two of the last remaining people on earth after an unexplained tragedy has destroyed most of life. As the two head south, they are faced with many trials and tribulations along the way. An intense bond between the father and son is formed as together they strive to not only survive, but to retain humanity as they help the people they encounter along the way.

3. Poisonwood Bible, The Barbara Kingsolver 1998 546 p FICTION 23 reg, 1 BCD, 3 LP

The family of a fierce evangelical Baptist missionary--Nathan Price, his wife, and his four daughters--begins to unravel after they embark on a 1959 mission to the Belgian Congo, where they find their lives transformed over the course of three decades.

4. East of Eden John Steinbeck 1952 601 p FICTION 43 reg, 1 LP

In a California farming valley in 1913, a wild adolescent rebels against his stern father, realizing that he favors his twin brother.

5. Pillars of the Earth, The Ken Follett 1989 973 p HISTORICAL FICTION 31 reg, 1 BCD

In the town of Kingsbridge during the middle of the twelfth century, the lives of those who are working to build the most amazing Gothic cathedral in the world become entwined through their ambitions, loves, and tribulations. At once, this is a sensuous and enduring love story and an epic that shines with the fierce spirit of a passionate age.

6. One Hundred Years of Solitude Gabriel García Márquez 1970 422 P FICTION 19 reg, 1 BCD

The novel tells the story of the rise and fall of the mythical town of Macondo through the history of the Buendía family. Rich and brilliant, it is a chronicle of life, death, and the tragicomedy of humankind. In the beautiful, ridiculous, and tawdry story of the Buendía family, one sees all of humanity, just as in the history, myths, growth, and decay of Macondo, one sees all of Latin America

7. *Middlesex* Jeffrey Eugenides 2002 529 p FICTION 20 reg 3 BCD

Calliope's friendship with a classmate and her sense of identity are compromised by the adolescent discovery that she is a hermaphrodite (a person with both male and female sex organs) , a situation with roots in her grandparents' desperate struggle for survival in the 1920s.

8. *Gap Creek* Robert Morgan 1999 326 p FICTION 23 reg, 2 LP

A novel on the harsh life in the Appalachian Mountains at the turn of the century. The heroine is Julie Harmon whose work load includes hauling water, butchering a hog, rendering lard, plucking a turkey, baking and preserving--all described in detail.

9. *New Earth, A: Awakening to Your Life's Purpose* Eckhart Tolle 2005 315 p
NON FICTION 29 reg, 4 BCD, 1 eAudiobook

Eckhart Tolle takes readers beyond their own lives to show that we now have an opportunity to birth a new, more loving world. This involves a radical inner leap of consciousness from the current identification with our ego to an entirely new way of thinking about who we are.

10. *Midwives* Chris Bohjalian 1997 374 p FICTION 22 reg

The time is 1981, and Sibyl Danforth has been a dedicated midwife in the rural community of Reddington, Vermont, for fifteen years. But one treacherous winter night, in a house isolated by icy roads and failed telephone lines, Sibyl takes desperate measures to save a baby's life. She performs an emergency Caesarean section on its mother, who appears to have died in labor. But what if—as Sibyl's assistant later charges—the patient wasn't already dead, and it was Sibyl who inadvertently killed her?

11. *Bluest Eye, The* Toni Morrison 1970 215 p FICTION 31 reg, BCD 1

Portrayal of a poor black girl in America who prays for her eyes to turn blue. This is the story of the nightmare at the heart of her yearning and the tragedy of its fulfillment.

12. *She's Come Undone* by Wally Lamb 1998 465 p FICTION 22 reg

In this extraordinary coming-of-age odyssey, Wally Lamb invites us to hitch a wild ride on a journey of love, pain, and renewal with the most heartbreakingly comical heroine to come along in years. Meet Dolores Price. She's 13, wise-mouthed but wounded, having bid her childhood goodbye. Stranded in front of her bedroom TV, *she* spends the next few years nourishing herself with the Mallomars, potato chips, and Pepsi her anxious mother supplies. When she finally orbits into young womanhood at 257 pounds, Dolores is no stronger and life is no kinder. But this time she's determined to rise to the occasion and give herself one more chance before she really goes under.

13. Ruby Cynthia Bond 2014 333 p FICTION

5 reg, 1 LP, 1 eBook

Ephram Jenkins has never forgotten the beautiful girl with the long braids running through the piney woods of Liberty, their small East Texas town. Young Ruby, "the kind of pretty it hurt to look at," is already quite damaged, but Ephram is forcibly drawn to her. As soon as she becomes a young woman and has any power of her own, Ruby flees suffocating Liberty for the bright pull of 1950s New York City. Years later, when a funeral forces her to return home, 30-year-old Ruby will find herself reliving the devastating violence of her girlhood. With the terrifying realization that she might not be strong enough to fight her way back out, Ruby struggles to survive her memories of the town's dark past. Meanwhile, Ephram must choose between loyalty to the sister who raised and stood by him and the chance for a life with the woman he has loved since he was a boy.

14. I Know This Much Is True Wally Lamb 1998 901 p FICTION

18 reg, 1 LP

On the afternoon of October 12, 1990, my twin brother, Thomas, entered the Three Rivers, Connecticut, public library, retreated to one of the rear study carrels, and prayed to God the sacrifice he was about to commit would be deemed acceptable. . . .

One of the most acclaimed novels of our time, Wally Lamb's *I Know This Much Is True* is a story of alienation and connection, devastation and renewal, at once joyous, heartbreaking, poignant, mystical, and powerfully, profoundly human.

15. Lesson before Dying , A Ernest J. Gaines 1993 256 p FICTION

17 reg

A Lesson Before Dying is set in a small Cajun community in the late 1940s. Jefferson, a young black man, is an unwitting party to a liquor store shoot out in which three men are killed; the only survivor, he is convicted of murder and sentenced to death. Grant Wiggins, who left his hometown for the university, has returned to the plantation school to teach. As he struggles with his decision whether to stay or escape to another state, his aunt and Jefferson's godmother persuade him to visit Jefferson in his cell and impart his learning and his pride to Jefferson before his death. In the end, the two men forge a bond as they both come to understand the simple heroism of resisting--and defying--the expected. Ernest J. Gaines brings to this novel the same rich sense of place, the same deep understanding of the human psyche, and the same compassion for a people and their struggle that have unformed his previous, highly praised works of fiction.

16. Good Earth, The Pearl S. Buck 1931 260 p. FICTION

35 reg, 2 LP

Wang Lung, a peasant in China in the 1920s, becomes a prosperous landowner with the help of his humble wife, O'Lan, with whom he shares a devotion to duty, land, and survival.

17. The Corrections by Jonathan Franzen 2001 567 p FICTION

26 reg, 1 BCD, 1 LP

Novels dealing with domestic crises and familial dysfunction are part of a long and honorable tradition. (As Tolstoy said in 1877, "All happy families are alike. Every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way.") Jonathan Franzen, gifted author of *The Twenty-Seventh City* and *Strong Motion*, now claims a place in that

tradition with *The Corrections*, his funny, desolating, unsparing account of a divided, deeply unhappy American family.

18. *Black and Blue* by Anna Quindlen 1999 293 p FICTION 23 reg

A woman flees from her abusive husband, who is also a police officer.

19. *Love in the Time of Cholera* by Gabriel García Márquez 1988 348 p FICTION 22 reg, 1 BCD

Florentino is a poetry-writing telegraph operator who lives in a Central American city. He spots the graceful Fermina while making his rounds, and finds himself in love. While Florentino's mother encourages the courtship, Fermina's father absolutely forbids it. Years pass, and the well-born Dr. Urbino treats Fermina for a case of cholera. When Urbino proposes, Fermina accepts. A distraught Florentino decides to wait. With the help of his uncle, he amasses wealth of his own. All the while, he drifts from woman to woman, never really finding what he is looking for in a woman. After five decades of waiting, he gets a second chance to win Fermina's heart.

20. *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle* by David Wroblewski 2008 566 p FICTION 25 reg, 2 BCD, 3 LP

A tale reminiscent of "Hamlet" that also celebrates the alliance between humans and dogs follows speech-disabled Wisconsin youth Edgar, who bonds with three yearling canines and struggles to prove that his sinister uncle is responsible for his father's death.

21. *Song of Solomon* by Toni Morrison 1995 FICTION 253 p 29 reg, 1 eBook

Milkman Dead was born shortly after a neighborhood eccentric hurled himself off a rooftop in a vain attempt at flight. For the rest of his life he, too, will be trying to fly. With this brilliantly imagined novel, Toni Morrison transfigures the coming-of-age story as audaciously as Saul Bellow or Gabriel García Márquez. As she follows Milkman from his rustbelt city to the place of his family's origins, Morrison introduces an entire cast of strivers and seeresses, liars and assassins, the inhabitants of a fully realized black world.

22. *A Million Little Pieces* by James Frey 2003 BIOGRAPHY 381 p. 19 reg, 1 eBook

At the age of 23, James Frey woke up on a plane to find his front teeth knocked out and his nose broken. He had no idea where the plane was headed nor any recollection of the past two weeks. An alcoholic for ten years and a crack addict for three, he checked into a treatment facility shortly after landing. There he was told he could either stop using or die before he reached age 24. This is Frey's acclaimed account of his six weeks in rehab

23. *White Oleander* by Janet Fitch 1999 FICTION 390 p 23 reg, 2 LP

Everywhere hailed as a novel of rare beauty and power, *White Oleander* tells the unforgettable story of Ingrid, a brilliant poet imprisoned for murder, and her daughter, Astrid, whose odyssey through a series of Los Angeles foster homes—each its own universe, with its own laws, its own dangers, its own hard lessons to be learned—becomes a redeeming and surprising journey of self-discovery.

24. *Freedom* by Jonathan Franzen 2010 FICTION 562 P 28 reg, 4 BCD, 1 LP

The idyllic lives of civic-minded environmentalists Patty and Walter Berglund come into question when their

son moves in with aggressive Republican neighbors, green lawyer Walter takes a job in the coal industry, and go-getter Patty becomes increasingly unstable and enraged.

25. *Tara Road* by Maeve Binchy 1998 FICTION 502 p 25 reg, 7 LP

Ria lived on Tara Road in Dublin with her dashing husband Danny and their two children. She fully believed she was happily married, right up until the day Danny told her he was leaving her to be with his young, pregnant girlfriend.

26. *The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter* by Carson McCullers 1967 FICTION 359 p 22 reg, 1 BCD

At its center is the deaf-mute John Singer, who becomes the confidant for various types of misfits in a Georgia mill town during the 1930s. Each one yearns for escape from small town life. When Singer's mute companion goes insane, Singer moves into the Kelly house, where Mick Kelly, the book's heroine (and loosely based on McCullers), finds solace in her music. Wonderfully attuned to the spiritual isolation that underlies the human condition, and with a deft sense for racial tensions in the South, McCullers spins a haunting, unforgettable story that gives voice to the rejected, the forgotten, and the mistreated -- and, through Mick Kelly, gives voice to the quiet, intensely personal search for beauty.

27. *The Deep End of the Ocean* by Jacquelyn Mitchard 1996 FICTION 434 p 24 reg, 1 LP

A wife and mother is faced with rebuilding her life, and her family, after they have been shockingly torn apart. When their son disappears, the pain of a lost child ravages the Cappadora family for nearly a decade. But when he suddenly returns, the entire family must come to a painful reunion of their own.

28. *The Pilot's Wife: A Novel* by Anita Shreve 1998 FICTION 293 p 25 reg

A pilot's wife is taught to be prepared for the late-night knock at the door. But when Kathryn Lyons receives word that a plane flown by her husband, Jack, has exploded near the coast of Ireland, she confronts the unfathomable--one startling revelation at a time.

29. *Fall on Your Knees* by Ann-Marie MacDonald 1996 FICTION 508 p 24 reg, 1 LP

The story of a jinxed family, a catalog of rape, incest and death. James Piper abuses his daughter, atones by sending her to New York to study singing while he goes to war, she returns pregnant, dies in childbirth when her mother opens her to save her twins. One of the twins dies, mother commits suicide, the second twin contracts polio while being baptized in a creek by an aunt, the aunt is raped by James. A first novel set in Nova Scotia early this century.

30. *Cane River* by Lalita Tademy 2001 FICTION 418 p 23 reg, BCD 3, LP 3

Follows four generations of African American women from slavery to the early twentieth century as they struggle for economic security and the future of their families along the Cane River in rural Louisiana.

31. *Sula* by Toni Morrison 1973 FICTION 174 p 24 reg, 3 LP

Nel Wright has chosen to stay in the place where she was born, to marry, raise a family, and become a pillar of the black community. *Sula* Pearce has rejected the life Nel has embraced, escaping to college, and submerging

herself in city life. When she does return to her roots, she returns as a rebel and a wanton seductress. Both must eventually face the consequences of their choice....

32. *Where the Heart Is* by Billie Letts 1998 FICTION 376 p 26 reg

A pregnant girl abandoned by her boyfriend hides in a Wal-Mart store, gives birth and becomes a celebrity as the mother of the Wal-Mart Baby. Help flows from everywhere as people jump on the publicity bandwagon, then the baby is kidnapped.

33. *Drowning Ruth* by Christina Schwarz 2000 FICTION 338 p 24 reg

A gripping psychological thriller . . . In the winter of 1919, a young mother named Mathilda Neumann drowns beneath the ice of a rural Wisconsin lake. The shock of her death dramatically changes the lives of her daughter, troubled sister, and husband. . . . Told in the voices of several of the main characters and skipping back and forth in time, the narrative gradually and tantalizingly reveals the dark family secrets and the unsettling discoveries that lead to the truth of what actually happened the night of the drowning.

34. *A Fine Balance* by Rohinton Mistry 1995 FICTION 603 p 17 reg

A portrait of India featuring four characters. Two are tailors who are forcibly sterilized, one is a student who emigrates, and the fourth is a widowed seamstress who decides to hang on. A tale of cruelty, political thuggery and despair by an Indian from Toronto, author of *Such a Long Journey*.

35. *Daughter of Fortune* by Isabel Allende 1999 FICTION 399 p 19 reg, 2 BCD

Raised in the British colony of Valparaiso, Chile, after being abandoned as a baby, a pregnant Eliza follows her lover, Joaquin Andieta, to California at the height of the Gold Rush and finds adventure and adversity on her road to independence and love.

36. *We Were the Mulvaney's* by Joyce Carol Oates 1996 FICTION 454 p 25 reg

A family of six disintegrates after a daughter is raped by a high-school student. It happens to the wealthy Mulvaney's in upstate New York. The disgrace--there is some question if it was rape--sends the father to drink and financial ruin, the girl leaves home, the others follow.

37. *Anna Karenina* by Leo Tolstoy 1875 FICTION CLASSIC 927 p 38 reg

Anna Karenina, dutiful wife and doting mother, knows contentment but not passion. That changes when she meets ardent Count Vronsky. For him, she throws away marriage, family, social position and finally her life.

38. *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie* by Ayana Mathis 2012 FICTION 243 p

10 reg, 6 BCD, 1 LP, 4 eBook, 1 e Audio

The story of an African American family held together with a mother's grit and monumental courage.

39. *The Reader* by Bernhard Schlink 1997 FICTION 218 p 21 reg, 4 BCD, 1 eBook

Post-WWII, Germany. Michael Berg is a teenager who becomes ill and is helped home by Hanna, a stranger twice his age. Michael recovers from scarlet fever and seeks out Hanna to thank her. The two are quickly drawn into a passionate but secretive affair. Michael discovers that Hanna loves being read to and their physical relationship deepens. Hanna is enthralled as Michael reads to her from different works of literature. Despite their intense bond, Hanna mysteriously disappears one day and Michael is left confused and heartbroken. Eight years later, while Michael is a law student observing the Nazi war crime trials, he is stunned to find Hanna back in his life, only this time as a defendant in the courtroom. As Hanna's past is revealed, Michael uncovers a deep secret that will impact both of their lives. (Translated from German)

40. *House of Sand and Fog* by Andre Dubus III 1999 FICTION 365 p 21 reg

The lives of an immigrant Iranian family are troubled when they attempt to keep ownership of a home near the sea.

41. *A Map of the World* by Jane Hamilton 1995 FICTION 389 p 16 reg, 1 LP

Nowhere are the vagaries of the human condition brought to such stark and serious light as they are in Jane Hamilton's tale of a life in upheaval, *A Map of the World*. Alice Goodwin lives on a farm in Wisconsin with her husband and daughters and works part-time at the local school as a nurse. When a friend and neighbor leaves her two-year-old daughter in Alice's care, a moment's inattention leads to the child's death. This singularly tragic event triggers a series of other occurrences that will rock the tiny community where Alice lives and undermine everything Alice holds dear. *A Map of the World* is a story of trials -- legal and personal -- and the triumph of the human spirit over the worst of adversities.

42. *Stones from the River* by Ursula Hegi 1995 FICTION 525 p 21 reg, 1 LP

Trudi Montag is a *Zwerg*—a dwarf—short, undesirable, different, the voice of anyone who has ever tried to fit in. Eventually she learns that being different is a secret that all humans share—from her mother who flees into madness, to her friend Georg whose parents pretend he's a girl, to the Jews Trudi harbors in her cellar.

43. *Breath, Eyes, Memory* by Edwidge Danticat 1994 FICTION 234 p 17 reg, 2 LP

At the age of twelve, Sophie Caco is sent from her impoverished Haitian village to New York to be reunited with a mother she barely remembers. There she discovers secrets that no child should ever know, and a legacy of shame that can be healed only when she returns to Haiti—to the women who first reared her. What ensues is a passionate journey through a landscape charged with the supernatural and scarred by political violence. In her stunning literary debut, Danticat evokes the wonder, terror, and heartache of her native Haiti—and the enduring strength of Haiti's women—with vibrant imagery and narrative grace that bear witness to her people's suffering and courage.

44. *Here on Earth* by Alice Hoffman 1997 FICTION 293 p kit, 24 reg

The bestselling author of **The Dovekeepers** tells her most seductive and mesmerizing tale yet—the story of March Murray, who returns to her small Massachusetts hometown after nineteen years, encountering her childhood sweetheart...and discovering the heartbreaking and complex truth about their reckless and romantic love.

45. Cry, the Beloved Country by Alan Paton 1948 FICTION CLASSIC 316 p 29 reg

Two fathers - one a man of peace, the other a man of power and privilege - seem destined for a violent collision. But instead, in a wake of a tragic killing, these extraordinary men form an unlikely union.

46. Back Roads by Tawni O'Dell 2000 FICTION 343 p 31 reg, 4 LP, 1 BCD

A novel on a dysfunctional family in a Pennsylvania coal-mining town. The mother is in jail for killing the father and the four children are on their own. They are supported by the eldest, Harley Altmyer, 20, who is having an affair with the mother of a friend of his sister. (Local PA author)

47. What Looks like Crazy on an Ordinary Day by Pearl Cleage 1997 FICTION 244 p 15 reg

After a decade of elegant pleasures and luxe living with the Atlanta brothers and sisters with the best clothes and biggest dreams, Ava Johnson has temporarily returned home to Idlewild—her fabulous career and power plans smashed to bits by cold reality. But what she imagines to be the end is, instead, a beginning. Because, in the ten-plus years since Ava left, all the problems of the big city have come to roost in the sleepy North Michigan community whose ordinariness once drove her away; and she cannot turn her back on friends and family who sorely need her in the face of impending trouble and tragedy. Besides which, that one unthinkable, unmistakable thing is now happening to her: Ava Johnson is falling in love.

48. Open House by Elizabeth Berg 2000 FICTION 241 p 24 reg

A woman whose husband abruptly leaves her decides that rather than selling their house, she will keep it and rent out rooms to boarders. This novel, which was an Oprah pick, is about finding the gifts inside yourself that you've ignored or not been aware of. It emphasizes the fact that sometimes it takes a tragedy to get you to the best place you can be.

49. The Book of Ruth by Jane Hamilton 1988 FICTION 328 p 23 reg, 2 LP

Winner of the 1989 PEN/Hemingway Foundation Award for best first novel, this exquisite book confronts real-life issues of alienation and violence from which the author creates a stunning testament to the human capacity for mercy, compassion and love.

50. Ellen Foster by Kaye Gibbons 1988 FICTION 126 p 24 reg, 1 LP

Having suffered abuse and misfortune for most of her life, a young gile searches for a better life and finally find it in the home of a loving woman with several foster children.

51. A Virtuous Woman by Kaye Gibbons 1989 FICTION 165 p 23 reg

When Blinking Jack Stokes met Ruby Pitt Woodrow, she was twenty and he was forty. She was the carefully raised daughter of Carolina gentry and he was a skinny tenant farmer who had never owned anything in his life. She was newly widowed after a disastrous marriage to a brutal drifter. He had never asked a woman to do more

than help him hitch a mule. They didn't fall in love so much as they simply found each other and held on for dear life.

52. *The Measure of a Man: A Spiritual Autobiography* by Sidney Poitier,
2000, BIO, 255 p, 19 reg, 1 LP, 3 BCD

The actor--who grew up poor on a small Bahamian island with no electricity--credits his childhood for instilling in him the sense of self-worth and determination that has enabled him to break countless barriers. At first rejected by audiences, Poitier eventually became the first African American to win an Academy Award for Best Actor. His strong influence in the Civil Rights movement led to multiple honors from the NAACP.

53. *Icy Sparks* by Gwyn Hyman Rubio 1998 FICTION 308 p 18 reg, 1 LP, 2 BCD

The sad, funny, transcendent story of a young girl growing up in Appalachia with Tourette's syndrome.

54. *Paradise* by Toni Morrison 1998 FICTION 318 p 20 reg

A former leisure home converted into a convent by a group of battered women in an African-American town becomes the site of a brutal attack when nine men force their way in. Morrison weaves together the history of the town with the present lives of its inhabitants, resulting in her trademark multilayered narrative style.

55. *A Summer of Faulkner: Three Novels: As I Lay Dying/ The Sound and the Fury/Light in August* by William Faulkner

As I Lay Dying 1930 FICTION 30 reg

This novel is the harrowing account of the Bundren family's odyssey across the Mississippi countryside to bury Addie, their wife and mother. Told in turns by each of the family members—including Addie herself—the novel ranges in mood from dark comedy to the deepest pathos.

The Sound and the Fury 1929 FICTION 33 reg

Faulkner created his "heart's darling," the beautiful and tragic Caddy Compson, whose story Faulkner told through separate monologues by her three brothers—the idiot Benjy, the neurotic suicidal Quentin and the monstrous Jason.

Light in August 1932 FICTION 25 reg

Light in August, a novel about hopeful perseverance in the face of mortality, features some of Faulkner's most memorable characters: guileless, dauntless Lena Grove, in search of the father of her unborn child; Reverend Gail Hightower, who is plagued by visions of Confederate horsemen; and Joe Christmas, a desperate, mysterious drifter consumed by his mixed ancestry.

55. *Say You're One of Them* by Uwem Akpan 2009 FICTION 384 p 20 reg, 2 LP, 3 BCD

The power of the human spirit is showcased in this collection of short stories featuring young children in Africa struggling to overcome extreme hardship and heartache from poverty, injustice, and violence.

56. *The Heart of a Woman* by Maya Angelou 1997 BIO 324 p 24 reg

Maya Angelou has fascinated, moved, and inspired countless readers with the first three volumes of her autobiography, one of the most remarkable personal narratives of our age. Now, in her fourth volume, *The Heart of a Woman*, her turbulent life breaks wide open with joy as the singer-dancer enters the razzle-dazzle of fabulous New York City. There, at the Harlem Writers Guild, her love for writing blazes anew.

Her compassion and commitment lead her to respond to the fiery times by becoming the northern coordinator of Martin Luther King's history-making quest. A tempestuous, earthy woman, she promises her heart to one man only to have it stolen, virtually on her wedding day, by a passionate African freedom fighter.

57. *Jewel* by Bret Lott 1991 FICTION 358 p 15 reg, 2 LP

Jewel is the story of how quickly life can change; how, like lightning, an unforeseen event can set us on a course without reason or compass.

58. *Vinegar Hill* by A. Manette Ansay 1998 FICTION 240 p 18 reg, 5 LP

In a stark, troubling, yet ultimately triumphant celebration of self-determination, award-winning author A. Manette Ansay re-creates a stifling world of guilty and pain, and the tormented souls who inhabit it. It is 1972 when circumstance carries Ellen Grier and her family back to Holly's Field, Wisconsin. Dutifully accompanying her newly unemployed husband, Ellen has brought her two children into the home of her in-laws on Vinegar Hill — a loveless house suffused with the settling dust of bitterness and routine — where calculated cruelty is a way of life preserved and perpetuated in the service of a rigid, exacting and angry God. Behind a facade of false piety, there are sins and secrets in this place that could crush a vibrant young woman's passionate spirit. And here Ellen must find the straight to endure, change, and grow in the all-pervading darkness that threatens to destroy everything she is and everyone she loves.

59. *While I Was Gone* by Sue Miller 1999 FICTION 265 p 19 reg, 2 LP, 1 BCD

Having moved on with her life after a friend was brutally murdered, Jo Becker is now married with a grown family, but when an old housemate moves into the neighborhood, Jo rekindles a relationship that takes her back to the past and threatens her future.

60. *The Rapture of Canaan* by Sheri Reynolds 1995 FICTION 320 p 17 reg, 2 LP

At the Church of Fire and Brimstone and Gods Almighty Baptizing Wind, Grandpa Herman makes the rules for everyone, and everyone obeys, or else. Try as she might, Ninah hasn't succeeded in resisting temptation her prayer partner, James and finds herself pregnant. She fears the wrath of Grandpa Herman, the congregation and of God Himself. But the events that follow show Ninah that Gods ways are more mysterious than even Grandpa Herman understands.

61. *Songs in Ordinary Time* by Mary McGarry Morris 1995 FICTION 740 p 23 reg

Morris, author of *A Dangerous Woman*, explores the relationship between a trusting, needy divorcée and a shady con man. Raising her children without any support from her alcoholic ex-husband, Marie Fermoye is lured into Omar Duvall's trap by the glint of promised riches. Marie and her children, troubled by their shabby existence, are no match for Omar's manipulations.

62. *Mother of Pearl* by Melinda Haynes 1999 FICTION 466 p 23 reg, 2 LP

This novel captures all the rueful irony and racial ambivalence of small-town Mississippi in the late 1950s.

63. *A Tale of Two Cities* and *Great Expectations: Two Novels* by Charles Dickens

A Tale of Two Cities 1859 FICTION CLASSIC 544 p 75 reg, 1 LP, 2 BCD

When the starving French masses rise in hate to overthrow a corrupt and decadent government, both the guilty and innocent become victims of their frenzied anger. Soon nothing stands in the way of the chilling figure they enlist for their cause—La Guillotine—the new invention for efficiently chopping off heads.

Great Expectations 1861 FICTION CLASSIC 558 p 38 reg, 3 LP, 2 BCD

The orphan, Pip, and the convict, Magwitch, the beautiful Estella, and her guardian, the embittered and vengeful Miss Havisham, the ambitious lawyer, Mr. Jaggers -- all have a part to play in the mystery.

64. *River, Cross My Heart* by Breena Clarke 1999 FICTION 245 p 14 reg, 2 LP

Alice and Willie Bynum, having moved from rural North Carolina to Georgetown in search of a better life for themselves and their children, must find a way to cope when their six-year-old daughter Clara drowns in the Potomac River.

65. *Stolen Lives: Twenty Years in a Desert Jail* by Malika Oufkir 2001 BIO 293 p 18 reg

Malika Oufkir has spent most of her adult life as a prisoner. After her father King Malika was executed, she and her five siblings and mother were sent to a penal colony in 1972. She was not able to leave Morocco until 1996.