

The Feminist Bookshop

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FAVOURITE FICTION

The following books are favourite reads of staff and customers at The Feminist Bookshop. Most are fiction and a few true stories. Some are very new, and some have been around for a while. But all are books that have been loved, the kind of book that you can't put down, and the books you want to tell the world about! Most of these writers have written other books, also well worth looking out for.

The Robber Bride

Margaret Atwood \$23.00

A gripping psychological mystery. Three women are amazed when an old friend thought to be dead, reappears in their lives. Was she such a friend after all? Perhaps one of Atwood's best books, then again, some think *Alias Grace* is her best.

The Mists Of Avalon

Marion Zimmer Bradley \$22.95

Who could ever forget this magical book of intrigue and enchantment. The tales of Arthur from the viewpoint of the women.

March

Geraldine Brooks \$22.95

Winner of Pulitzer Prize for Fiction 2006. A lovely reworking of fiction and history as Brooks retells the story of the absent father from Louisa Alcott's famous classic *Little Women*. March was a chaplain and abolitionist who was obliged to go to war against all his principles. A love story set in a time of catastrophe, about a brave family man who longed to be at home with his wife and daughters.

Possession

AS Byatt \$19.70

Winner of the 1990 Booker Prize. Massive and complex story about a literary mystery which turns into an emotional voyage of discovery. Ignore the movie which was mediocre, the book is totally fantastic on every level, as a critique of Victorian poetry, an unbearably moving love story, and as a satire on the modern "biography industry". One of our best reads ever!

Angela Carter's Book Of Fairy Tales

Angela Carter \$34.95

Beautiful little gift edition of some dazzling fairy tales from around the world, collected by Carter who said "A fairy tale is a story where one king goes to another king to ask for a cup of sugar". Eccentric and brilliantly subversive.

The Red Tent

Anita Diamant \$22.95

Dazzling story of Dinah, only daughter of Jacob, who has been lost to history in the chronicles of men. Set in Mesopotamia, Canaan, and Egypt, this beautiful woman-identified novel tells how she grew into one of the most influential women of her time. A fabulous and imaginative book.

Mistress Of Spices

Chitra B Divakaruni \$21.95

Tilo, an immigrant from India, runs a spice shop in California, where she dispenses spices and magic to the local expatriate Indian community. *Sister Of My Heart* also by her is a wonderful read, as is her latest, *Queen Of Dreams*.

The Danish Girl

David Ebershoff \$19.95

Set in the glitz and decadence of 1920s Copenhagen, this exquisite book is inspired by a true story of two artists who are happily married bohemians. Their life changes radically when the husband discovers that he is a woman. A wonderful celebration of love.

The Gathering

Anne Enright \$32.95

Family saga of the vast Irish Hegarty clan who gather in Dublin for the funeral of wayward Liam. Brilliant writing and winner of Man Booker Prize 2007.

Middlesex

Jeffrey Eugenides \$22.95

A rollicking family epic following three generations of the Stephanides family who migrate from the old country (Greece) to downtown Detroit. Original, funny and uplifting, one of our favourite books.

Stone Butch Blues

Leslie Feinberg \$29.95

A once underground classic, the story of Jess Goldberg, a masculine girl who grew up in the homophobic McCarthy era, and came out as a butch lesbian in pre-Stonewall days. A magnificent portrayal of courage in the face of persecution.

My Brilliant Career

My Career Goes Bung

Miles Franklin \$24.95

Two fabulous stories in the same volume from a much loved Australian author, about Sybylla, one of the great romantic figures of Australian writing.

The Secret River

Kate Grenville \$29.95

Award-winning Australian historical novel, set in early days of NSW colony, mainly on the Hawkesbury River, where the Thornhill family survived and carved out their place, and faced conflict with Aboriginal owners of the land.

The Line of Beauty

Alan Hollinghurst \$22.00

Wonderful novel set in UK summer of 1983 Thatcher years, and Nick Guest becomes embroiled in the life of an upper class politically conservative family, while trying to keep his gay self in the closet.

Carry Me Down

MJ Hyland \$29.95

Shortlisted for Man Booker Prize in 2006. Great writing from a young Australian. An enthralling psychological thriller about a boy's obsessive desire to discover the truth about himself and his family.

Sixty Lights

Gail Jones \$29.95

Nominated in 2004 for the Man Booker Prize, a superb Australian writer. Imaginative, poetic and translucent writing, about an independent young woman, set in Victorian times, and her interest in photography.

The Secret Life Of Bees

Sue Monk Kidd \$24.95

Best seller in 2006, about Lily who grew up believing she accidentally killed her mother when she was four. Now at fourteen she yearns for forgiveness and a mother's love. A great story that uncovers racial tension, sisterly love and bee keeping.

The Poisonwood Bible

Barbara Kingsolver \$23.00

The story of one family's tragic adventures over the course of three decades in post-colonial Africa. Told from the perspective of the mother and four daughters, this is a superb epic from an amazingly imaginative author.

Fall On Your Knees

Anne-Marie Macdonald \$21.95

Winner of Commonwealth Writers Prize 1997. A wonderful family saga following the curves of the 20th century, and the intriguing relationships between four unforgettable sisters. Her new one **The Way The Crow Flies** is also excellent \$32.95

On Chesil Beach

Ian McEwan \$23.95

In a devastating and insightful masterpiece McEwan discloses the feelings of Florence and Edward on their wedding night in 1962. Deservedly nominated again for Man Booker Prize in 2007.

Atonement

Ian McEwan \$23.95

Shortlisted for Booker Prize in 2001 and recently seen as a movie. Many think this is the best of all McEwan's brilliant novels. A family saga set before and during WW2, about family rivalries, betrayal, and the destructive power of imagination.

My Place

Sally Morgan \$21.95

Non-fiction but reads as a sad, wise, and funny family saga, as Morgan uncovers her Aboriginal family history. Deeply moving, a book with heart, an Australian classic.

Beloved

Toni Morrison \$21.95

Anything by this author is great, but this is a special favourite from one of the best US writers of today. The era of slavery is ending, and life is changing for Sethe as she loses her baby daughter Beloved. What a writer.

Woman On The Edge Of Time

Marge Piercy \$19.95

Bestseller and Utopian epic, a landmark novel of politics and change, written in 1979 and still a wonderful read today. Definitely her best!

The Monkey's Mask

Dorothy Porter \$21.00

A totally unique experience, a crime thriller in poetry. Gripping from the first line verse, to the final haunting pages. A superb literary experience.

Gilead

Marilynne Robinson \$24.95

Winner of Pulitzer Prize for Fiction 2005. A beautiful and original story, a book of meditative calm and spiritual intensity. A father's extraordinary relationship with his son.

God Of Small Things

Arundhati Roy \$20.85

International best-seller explores the tragic fate of an Indian family. Roy is an exceptional writer, her poetic language is a total pleasure to read, not to be missed.

Journal Of A Solitude

May Sarton \$26.95

An old favourite, and a best-seller from a much-loved author. Follows a year in her life as a writer, exploring the creative process. Not truly fiction, but a wonderful read. A good introduction to a prolific writer of many special books.

The Lovely Bones

Alice Sebold \$30.00

A thought-provoking novel about life, death, and forgiveness, as Susie watches over her family from heaven. Fabulous.

I Capture The Castle

Dodie Smith \$21.95

A Virago Modern Classic, originally written in 1949 and a best seller to this day. Delightful story of Cassandra and her eccentric family, who live in an isolated and crumbling castle in country England. One of our all time favourites.

Like

Alice Smith \$25.95

Funny, haunting and moving first novel from an award winning author whose writing is like poetry.

Without Reservations

Alice Steinbach \$22.95

Not exactly fiction, but reads like a wonderful adventure. An account of taking a year off to travel the world, and discover what it is like to be an independent woman. Alice describes in exquisite detail her times in Paris, London, Oxford, and Italy. Her courage in traveling alone will

inspire you to get up and go. One of the loveliest memoir/travel books we have seen.

Sacred Country

Rose Tremain \$20.95

At the age of six, Mary Ward from a poor farming family, has a revelation, she isn't Mary, she's a boy. So begins her heroic struggle to change gender. An amazing, brilliant and compassionate story from a writer with incredible talent and imagination.

The Color Purple

Alice Walker \$20.85

Been around for ages, but not to be missed, and delightful to re-read. Tells how Celie overcomes her harsh and tragic life, and finds the love and support of women.

The Wings Of Night

Brenda Walker \$29.95

Award-winning Australian novel set in Western Australia at time of World War One, looking at the impact of war on families left at home. And the devastating wreckage on men's lives.

Fingersmith

Sarah Waters \$22.95

London 1862, orphan Sue Trinder is brought up by thieves and pickpockets. Her life changes when she becomes maid to a wealthy heiress. Fabulous novel by a great writer who was short-listed for the Booker Prize in 2002.

The Passion

Jeanette Winterson \$22.95

Difficult to decide which Winterson to list, as anything by her is quite marvelous. A fairy tale about passion, gambling, and androgynous ecstasy, set in ancient Venice. Delicious. Also exceptionally good, *Written On The Body*, *Sexing The Cherry*, and her new book *Lighthousekeeping*.

Swallow The Air

Tara June Winch \$28.00

Award winning Australian author writes hauntingly of young Aboriginal people looking for identity and hope in an alien society. Fresh voice from a great new writer.

Mrs Dalloway

Virginia Woolf \$21.95

A single day in Central London as wealthy socialite Clarissa Dalloway is preparing to give a party. Woolf shows her genius as she lets Clarissa speak through thoughts, feelings, and memories. Try this first, and then look at anything else by this revered English writer. *The Waves* is also superb and also read **The Hours** by Michael Cunningham.

Writers We Love : Read anything by the following:

Amy Tan, Alice Walker, Barbara Kingsolver, AS Byatt, May Sarton, Drusilla Modjeska, Kate Grenville, Toni Morrison, Jeanette Winterson, Rose Tremain, Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni, Sarah Waters, Tim Winton, Robert Dessaix, Jeffrey Eugenides, Dorothy Porter, Marele Day, Kerry Greenwood, Allan Hollinghurst, Ian McEwan, Sarah Waters, Ali Smith, Margaret Atwood...and there are so many more!

Classic Writers We Love:

Jane Austen, Charlotte Bronte, Angela Carter, Emily Dickinson, Virginia Woolf, George Eliot, Christina Stead, Iris Murdoch, Vita Sackville-West, Doris Lessing

Prices can vary without notice due to publisher increases beyond our control.