

ARTISTS AND ARTWORK

The Portrait by Charles Atkins

[F/ATK]

Just released from the hospital, Chad finally feels he has his life under control. He's taking his meds when he should and he's looking forward to the SoHo gallery opening of a show that could bring him fame and fortune. But the murder of Chad's psychiatrist on the night of the opening turns what should have been a triumphant evening into a nightmare. Chad is the last person known to have seen the doctor alive and the argument they had all but convicts him in the eyes of the police.

A Palette for Murder by Donald Bain

[M/BAI]

Jessica Fletcher has come to the elegant Hamptons on Long Island's gold coast for a sinfully sweet spell in the sun and a chance to indulge her secret passion: painting. But Jessica has only a brief time behind an easel before she finds herself under the gun to solve a mystery as tantalizing as its victim. A lovely young model lies like a corpse on a studio floor and Jessica needs no painter's eye to realize that her look of death is no pose.

The Forgetting Room by Nick Bantock

[F/BAN]

Behind a locked door, at the top of the stairs, in a house high above the Andalusian Plain, waits the forgetting room. This attic, crammed with strangely constructed objects, comfortably worn furniture and the tools of a dead artist, contains the shadow of a painfully exquisite secret.

The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay by Michael Chabon [F/CHA]

In 1939 New York City, Joe Kavalier, a refugee from Hitler's Prague, joins forces with his Brooklyn born cousin, Sammy Clay, to create comic book superheroes inspired by their own fantasies, fears and dreams.

Lydia Cassatt Reading the Morning Paper

[F/CHE]

By Harriet Scott Chessman

The life of Impressionist painter Mary Cassatt is skillfully fictionalized in this powerful novel about art and passion, narrated by the artist's sister, Lydia.

Girl With A Pearl Earring by Tracy Chevalier [F/CHE]

The life of sixteen-year-old Griet is transformed forever when she goes to work as a maid in the home of Dutch painter Johannes Vermeer and catches the eye of the famous artist.

Desert Paintbox by Jane McBride-Choate [F/CHO]

Veterinarian Rachel Small Deer dreams of bringing her skill and knowledge to help the people of the reservation where she has grown up. Denver painter Nick Cassavettes has come to Los Cincos, New Mexico to reclaim the art he has lost through the guilt he feels over the death of his younger brother. They have nothing in common but they strike an uneasy bargain and discover new sides to each other.

Artist's Proof by Gordon Cotler [F/COT]

Ex-cop Sid Shale took early retirement from the NYPD and now relishes the peace and quiet of home. He wants to follow his dream of being a full-time artist and, with the help of his agent/ex-wife, to sell enough of his paintings to pay his daughter's college tuition bills. Then, a sixteen-year-old girl is murdered a few houses down the shore from Sid and whether he likes it or not, he's back in the crime-solving business, this time to save his own skin.

Necessary Madness by Jenn Crowell [F/CRO]

After eight years of marriage, Gloria Burgess's husband succumbs to leukemia, leaving her alone with a son to bring up in an adopted country. With grace and assurance the author illustrates the timeless nature of wisdom and the tender path of survival.

The Body Artist by Don DeLillo [F/DEL]

Artist Lauren Hartke, living in a rented coastal house, meets a strange, ageless man with an uncanny knowledge of her life.

Memory and Dream by Charles DeLint [Fant/DEL]

This is an exciting tale of epic scope that explores the power our dreams have to transform the world or make it a waking nightmare.

The Birth of Venus by Sarah Dunant [CAS/F/DUN][LP/F/DUN][F/DUN]

Turning fifteen in Renaissance Florence, Alessandra Cecchi becomes intoxicated with the works of a young painter whom her father has brought to the city to decorate the family's Florentine palazzo.

Pawleys Island: A Lowcountry Tale by Dorothea Benton Frank [F/FRA]

Hoping to sell some of her watercolors, Becca Sims wanders into the seaside Gallery Valentine, never expecting that the gallery owner will transform her life and his best friend, in a novel set in small town South Carolina.

Night Falls Like Silk by Kathleen Eagle [F/EAG]

Cassandra Westbrook exudes a cool beauty and an aloofness borne of wealth and privilege. While attending an auction, her interest is captivated by a set of Native American ledger drawings and almost as mesmerizing, the handsome man who is bidding against her. She comes to possess the drawings and the mysterious stranger's interest. But after a few moments of provocative conversation, he walks away.

The Picture Makers by Emily Ellison [LP/F/ELL][F/ELL]

This book is told from the points of view of seven unforgettable characters, all possessing hearts big enough to kill them. The key is that their hearts and the tragedies and disruptions that come with the simple passing of time do not kill them. Instead, these characters are heartbreakingly human people who have suffered deep wounds and grave losses and who are trying to straighten out the messes and accidents that make up their lives.

Artistic License by Katie FForde [F/FFO]

Single, thirty something Thea traded her promising career as a photographer for the quiet countryside of the English Cotswolds. But when she meets a promising, sexy Irish painter while vacationing in Provence, her creative spirit is unexpectedly reawakened.

Sketches With Wolves by Jacqueline Fieldler [M/FIE]

When wildlife artist Caroline Canfield arrives at Wolf Prairie to observe wolf packs in their natural habitat, she is eager to put faces to the names in her Internet chat group, and most of all, to meet her online friend Kaila Windwalker. On the first evening she discovers a dead body and no one will believe what she has found. The more the group learns about the wolves they observe, the more they exhibit pack-like behavior themselves and soon they are ganging up on Caroline in her quest to unmask the murderer among them.

Tiger's Palette by Jacqueline Fiedler [M/FIE]

After Caroline Canfield's former mentor, Anthony Chirico, plunges to his suspicious death from a scaffold, Caroline initially turns down the chance to finish his jungle mural at the Fox Valley Zoo. Spurred by her desire to know the truth and uncover the secrets of the mural, Caroline reluctantly accepts the Fox Valley Zoo commission. If she doesn't put the pieces of the puzzle together soon, she may never get out of this jungle alive.

In A Wink by Lacy Green [F/GRE]

Beautiful but clumsy, shy but courageous, independent but lonely, Kara MacKenzie is a paradox of emotions. Michel Vernier is an artist with his own demons to face. When these two characters meet, their path to love is not an easy one. It is a journey that will end happily only if Kara has the strength to put aside her self-doubts and Michel, his pride.

A Comedy of Murders by George Herman [M/HER]

Here is the wittiest historical mystery to come along since *The Name of the Rose*. *A Comedy of Murders* stars as amateur sleuths the unlikely duo of Leonardo da Vinci and a young dwarf.

Mortal Love by Elizabeth Hand [F/HAN]

In a tale that explores the link between creativity and madness, artist Radborne Comstock interacts with a captivating woman who both inspires him and becomes an object of obsession.

Touching Evil by Kay Hooper

[LP/F/HOO][F/HOO]

Seattle police sketch artist Maggie Barnes has an extraordinary gift. She listens as traumatized crime victims describe their ordeals and then uses those horrifying recollections to draw dead-on sketches of the assailants. Some cops think Maggie is telepathic, that she can actually enter the victims' minds. Only Maggie knows the truth behind her rare talent and she isn't telling.

Now You See Her by Linda Howard

[LP/F/HOW][F/HOW]

A talented landscape painter and portrait artist in her early thirties, Paris Sweeney has achieved enviable success. Her work sells at an exclusive New York City gallery owned by her friend, Candra Worth. Then she begins to notice odd changes; traffic lights turn green when she approaches. Her plants are in full bloom out of season. Suddenly, impulsively, Sweeney finds herself unable to resist a night of intense passion with millionaire Richard Worth, Candra's estranged husband. After a creative frenzy she can barely recall, Sweeney discovers she has rendered a disturbing image, a graphic murder scene. Now, with every stroke of her brush, she risks incriminating herself with her inexplicable knowledge of a deadly crime.

The Golden Cross by Angela Elwell Hunt

[F/HUN]

It is said that as Cahira, daughter of the great Irish king Rory O'Connor, lay dying of a wound from a Norman blade, she lifted her hand toward heaven and beseeched God that others would follow after her, bright stars who would break forth from the courses to which they are bound and restore right in this murderous world.

Until I Find You by John Irving

[F/IRV]

Chronicles the life and times of actor Jack Burns, whose unique bond with his mother, Alice, a Toronto tattoo artist and their search for his missing father, William, shapes his relationships with women and his Hollywood career.

Ambition and Love by Ward Just

[F/JUS]

This is a book about varieties of desire. Its heroine is a painter, Georgia Whyte, an American who has fled the turbulence of Los Angeles and Chicago for the anonymity of Europe. In Paris, she succeeds in living by her heart, expecting there will be a price and wondering what that price will be.

Dark Swan by Kathryn Lasky Knight

[M/KNL]

House-sitting while her own home is being remodeled, children's book illustrator and sometime amateur sleuth Calista Jacobs is hard at work on her next book. Making sketches every day she gets a peek at the narrow world of the Boston Brahmins. When Calista discovers the older woman's murdered body, she feels compelled to investigate.

Raven's Widows by Vince Kohler

[M/KOH]

Eldon Larkin, reporter for the small Oregon paper South Coast Sun, leaves the rainy north to take a well deserved Alaskan fishing vacation. After almost being run down by a runaway totem pole, he makes the acquaintance of Anita Povey, the attractive editor of a local Alaska paper. Anita has little trouble convincing Eldon to write for her paper. Then, Eldon discovers the body of an unpleasant Indian artist, shot and then crushed under one of his own totem poles. Once again, Eldon finds himself in the middle of a very strange murder.

By the Light of the Moon by Dean Koontz

[CAS/F/KOO][F/KOO]

Dylan O'Connor is a gifted young artist just trying to do the right thing in life. He's on his way to an arts festival in Santa Fe when he stops to get a room for himself and his twenty-year-old autistic brother, Shep. In a nightmarish instant, Dylan is attacked by a mysterious "doctor," injected with a strange substance and told that he is now a carrier of something that will either kill him or transform his life in the most remarkable way. Then he is told that he must flee before the doctor's enemies hunt him down for the secret circulating through his body.

The Italian Garden by Judith Lennox-Smith

[F/LEN]

Amid the sensuous splendor and fierce artistic competition of Renaissance Italy, a beautiful but impoverished young girl grows to maturity in the studio of one of the city's most respected portrait painters. Lovely Joanna Zulian may have no parents and no dowry, but she is not without talent and the artist's blood that runs in her veins generates a thirst not to be denied.

Animosity by David L. Lindsey

[F/LIN]

A psychological thriller charts the seduction of American sculptor Ross Marteau by a beautiful woman while he is sculpting another woman whom he finds especially grotesque, as he becomes ensnared in a complex web of deceit, dark secrets and evil.

Blue Rodeo by Jo-Ann Mapson

[LP/F/MAP][F/MAP]

What had begun as an act of rebellion for sensible Margaret, abandoning her California life for the small town of Blue Dog, New Mexico, just three hours north of trendy Santa Fe, turns into much more than a year's retreat. Amid bright yellow summer wildflowers and the fascination of meeting master weaver Verbena Young-Cloud, Maggie locates the courage to pick up more than her old paintbrushes; she falls in love.

Colossus by Stephen Marlowe

[F/MAR]

A novel about Goya and a world gone mad

This novel is a magnificent portrait of a man painted in bold colors against a panoramic background of the dark and turbulent night of Spain.

Lunch by Karen Moline

[F/MOL]

Despite her fiancé and repulsion at her surrender, talented painter Olivia Morgan finds herself being seduced by Nick Muncie, a famous actor who is consumed by his own sexual perversions.

Light House: A Trifle by William Monahan

[F/MON]

This book is a singular adventure, full of literary spoofs and riffs; grand in the tradition it seeks to dismantle. It is a deftly written comedy, absolutely original and destined to become a classic on its own terms.

The Shadow Portrait by Gilbert Morris [F/MOR]

Peter Winslow throws himself into the world of car racing. He soon is torn between Jolie Devorak, the woman who loves him and Avis Warwick, a beautiful, wealthy woman who pressures him to join the fast set of high society. When Avis convinces Peter to let her ride in the Jolie Blonde during the race, Jolie battles with anger and jealousy. Phil Winslow has come from Montana to pursue his dream at the art institute. He soon meets a young invalid woman who shares his gift of art but lives as a recluse. When an unexpected turn of events confronts them all, each is faced with a difficult choice to make. Will wealth and power, jealousy and anger defeat them or will they learn the secret of genuine love?

Portrait of Jennie by Robert Nathan [F/NAT]

Eben Adams, a young painter, falls in love with a beautiful, mysterious girl who appears at key moments in his life.

The Passion Dream Book by Whitney Otto [LP/F/OTT][F/OTT]

This book travels from the Italian Renaissance, when a girl spends her days spying on a young Michelangelo and experiences the divided love of wanting the artist and wanting to be the artist, to the early years of the twentieth century, when the novel follows Romy March, a descendant of the Renaissance girl and Augustine Marks, who are both artists.

Plucking the Apple by Elizabeth Palmer [LP/F/PAL]

In this brilliantly drawn novel of modern manners, or the lack of them, a Chelsea dinner party at the home of gallery owners James and Victoria Harting sets in motion a chain of events that will leave none of the guests unscathed. Artist Jack Carey is the guest of honor, along with Ellen, his long suffering wife, whose job it is to keep Jack's mind off other women and on his paintings. But the evening ends with Jack slipping James's exotic sister his business card, much to the despair of her husband. A series of shocking events are about to unfold.

A Certain Enchantment by Marilyn Prather

[F/PRA]

Supported by a grant, Alison Hughes retreats to a small town in New Mexico to concentrate on her art. She is preparing for an exhibit that will also be her professional debut. Although she doesn't intend to get involved with the local people, she finds handsome veterinarian too charming to resist. Nor can she ignore Miguel, an artistically gifted little boy who asks Alison to teach him drawing.

You and No Other by Francis Ray

[F/RAY]

The protégé of a leading artist, sculptress Phoenix Banister dreams of success while protecting the scandalous secrets of her past by living the life of a recluse, until her peaceful, ordered world is turned upside down by Morgan Grayson, a handsome attorney and avid art collector.

Born in Shame by Nora Roberts

[F/ROB]

A talented graphic artist, Shannon Bodine's life revolved around her job at a prestigious New York advertising agency. Her world was turned upside down when she learned the identity of her real father, Thomas Concannon. Shannon reluctantly traveled to County Clare. There, her loneliness and shame melted away in the embrace of the family she never knew existed.

Maud's House by Sherry Roberts

[F/ROB]

Maud Calhoun is pressured to paint a mural for her small Vermont hometown. She searches for the inspiration that has eluded her for fifteen years, ever since she married George. George is dead now and Maud takes on the project of painting a mural for the Town Hall. This book is a love story of community, friends and the tender story of found love as Maud grapples with her past and her future.

Paris Never Leaves You by Adreana Robbins

[F/ROB]

Shortly before her twenty-first birthday, Djuna Cortez journeys to Paris to claim a mysterious legacy from a grandfather she never knew who was a world renowned surrealist painter. Djuna is shocked to learn that he has left her an estate that includes a winery and chateau in Loire, an apartment in Paris and a priceless art collection, which includes his own works and those of his friends and contemporaries, Miro, Picasso and Dali. He also made her his literary executor, asking her to see to the publication of his journals.

The Death Artist by Jonathan Santlofer

[F/SAN]

It's been more than a decade since Kate McKinnon traded her NYPD shield for a Ph.D. in art history, exchanged a row house in Queens for a penthouse overlooking Central Park. Her life is just about perfect when a string of murders begins plaguing the New York art scene. Kate finds herself drawn back into the dark world of her past.

All We Know of Love by Katie Schneider

[F/SCH]

This novel blends themes of female spirituality, creativity and romantic awakening. Along the way there is love left behind and love regained with a bloody fight and a ruined painting with miraculous visions and a child lost.

In the Language Of Love by Diane Schoemperien

[F/SCH]

The story of a young woman's life is told through the one hundred stimulus words from a classic word association test and recounts her experiences of girlhood, motherhood and marriage.

The Handyman by Carolyn See

[LP/F/SEE][F/SEE]

This is a story of Bob Hampton, an aspiring young painter who has had to face the humbling fact that he doesn't know what to paint. And how are you supposed to be an artist in this world if you don't have a vision? Bob trades in his artist's palette for a minivan full of house paints, hammers and nails and sets about earning a little cash as a handyman.

Scavenger Reef by Laurence Shames

[F/SHA]

Artist Augie Silver's friends are ostensibly grief stricken when he drowns in a shipwreck off Scavenger Reef, but most of them are nervous because his body wasn't found. They have too much to gain by his death. If Augie isn't dead, he soon will be, if his money hungry "friends" get their way

Liliane by Ntozake Shange

[F/SHA]

The author brings the strands of memories, dreams and expectations of a young black woman's life into ours. Through the voices of her childhood friends, Roxie, Lolie and Bernadette we encounter the last moments of legal segregation in Mississippi and the beginnings of class war within the black community of Queens. It is in her own works as an artist that Liliane reveals most of what she knows about herself to her world and our own.

Lily of the Valley by Suzanne S. Shea

[F/SHE]

Lily Wilk always knew she was destined to be an artist. Now her work is always in demand around her small Massachusetts town, where she makes her living painting fire hydrants, lettering diplomas and applying "Gulls" and "Buoys" to restaurant bathroom doors. But when supermarket heiress Mary Ziemba commissions her to paint a family portrait, Lily senses her lifelong dream of creating a memorable masterpiece is finally within her grasp. What she discovers, however, is that dreams often take their own unexpected twists and with each small and gentle brush stroke she applies to Mary Ziemba's painting, Lily learns more than she ever imagined about the meaning of friendship, family and love.

Dance of the Scarecrows by Ray Sipherd

[M/SIP]

At a Halloween night party in a small Connecticut town, six men dress as scarecrows to perform a comic dance. The next morning their leader, still in costume, is found brutally murdered in a cornfield. Jonathan Wilder is a respected ornithologist and one of the best bird artists of today. He is no detective but when the mayor is also found dead, he is sure he knows the killer, but the police believe they have the suspect too – Wilder himself.

On Bear Mountain by Deborah Smith

[F/SMI]

Ursula Powell returns home to the small town of her childhood in the Georgia Mountains when her father dies. Still looming in the backyard of the farm is an abstract iron sculpture of a bear, which has been a symbolic and powerful presence in the lives of Ursula, her brother and the rest of family since the day it was commissioned years before from a struggling New York artist named Richard Ricconi. Ursula's autistic brother believes that the bear embodies the spirit of their dead mother. It is a shock when the son of the sculptor comes to the small Georgia town to reclaim the sculpture. He offers Ursula millions of dollars for it, money that could solve all the problems of this dirt-poor community, or could it?

Impossible by Danielle Steel

[F/STE]

Brought together by their mutual interest in art, Sasha, a widowed art gallery owner with grown children, and Liam, a successful artist nine years her junior, find new meaning in their lives through their relationship with each other.

Safe Harbour by Danielle Steel

[LP/F/STE][F/STE]

At eleven, Pip Mackenzie's young life has already been touched by tragedy. Nine months before, a terrible accident plunged her mother into inconsolable grief. But on this chilly July afternoon, Pip meets someone who fills her sad gray world with color and light. In her innocence and in his kindness, a spark will be kindled, lives will be changed and a journey of hope will begin.

Girl in Hyacinth Blue by Susan Vreeland

[CAS/F/VRE][LP/F/VRE][F/VRE]

A professor invites a colleague from the art department to his home to see a painting that he has kept secret for decades. The professor swears it is a Vermeer. Why has he hidden this important work for so long? The reasons unfold in a series of stories that trace ownership of the painting back to World War II and Amsterdam and still further back to the moment of the work's inspiration.

The Forest Lover by Susan Vreeland

[LP/F/VRE][F/VRE]

This story presents a fictional portrait of pioneering artist Emily Carr, whose independence, boldly original artwork and unconventional approach to life overcame Victorian restrictions to blaze a new path for twentieth-century women artists.

Orchard by Larry Watson

[F/WAT]

Sonja Skordahl, a Norwegian immigrant, came to America looking for a new life. Instead, she married Henry House, only to find herself defined by her roles as wife and mother. As circumstances and destiny land Sonja in Ned's studio, she becomes more than his model and more than an object of desire. When both Ned and Henry insist on possessing her, their jealousies threaten to erupt into violence and Sonja must find a way to placate both men without sacrificing her hard-won sense of self.

Beauty by Susan Wilson

[F/WIL]

When Alix Miller travels to New Hampshire to paint Leland Crompton's portrait, nothing has prepared her for their first meeting. A writer of popular mysteries, Lee is hideously disfigured by a rare genetic disease. He's a recluse who interacts with the world only through his novels and his computer. He tells Alix that although he is willing to follow his wealthy family's tradition by sitting for a portrait, the painting will never be hung.

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This is a selected list. For Reader's Advisory suggestions please see our computer catalog or ask at the Adult Services desk.

F=Fiction

LP=Large Print

CAS=Book on Cassette

NB=New Book

M=Mystery

Fant.=Fantasy

SiFi=Science Fiction