

**Amy's Top 10 Books (and sometimes a few extra)
Compilation 2000 – 2015**

TOP 10 BOOKS OF 2000

Plainsong, Kent Haruf
A Blind Man Can See How Much I Love You, Amy Bloom
Wild Decembers, Edna O'Brien
Grapes of Wrath, John Steinbeck
Zen & The Art of Motorcycle Maintenance, Robert Pirsig
Horse Heaven, Jane Smiley
In Country, Bobbie Ann Mason
Tomcat in Love, Tim O'Brien
Jim the Boy, Tony Earley
Where I'm Calling From: New & Selected Stories, Raymond Carver
Runners Up: Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, J.K. Rowling; Fay, Larry Brown; The Pushcart Prize 2000: Best of the Small Presses; Waiting, Ha Jin

TOP 10 BOOKS OF 2001

The Corrections, Jonathan Franzen
Seabiscuit, An American Legend, Laura Hillenbrand
Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage, Alice Munro
Demonology, Rick Moody
The Bluest Angel, Francine Prose
Zig-Zagging Down a Wild Trail, Bobbie Ann Mason
The Yellow Wallpaper, Charlotte Perkins Gilman
The Vagina Monologues, Eve Ensler
Feast of Love, Charles Baxter
The Social Lives of Dogs, Elizabeth Marshall Thomas
Runners Up: Kiss My Tiara: How to Rule the World as a Smartmouth Goddess, Susan Jane Gilman; Fast Food Nation, Eric Schlosser; House of Sand and Fog, Andre Dubus III

TOP 10 BOOKS OF 2002

The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay (2001 Pulitzer Prize Winner), Michael Chabon
Child of My Heart, Alice McDermott
Confederacy of Dunces (1981 Pulitzer Prize Winner), John Kennedy Toole
An Invisible Sign of My Own, Aimee Bender
Last American Man, Elizabeth Gilbert
You Are Not a Stranger Here by Adam Haslett
The Great Gatsby, F. Scott Fitzgerald
Empire Falls (2002 Pulitzer Prize Winner), Richard Russo
Werewolves In Their Youth, Michael Chabon
Stupid White Men (and Bowling for Columbine, the movie), Michael Moore
Runners Up: White Fang, Jack London; Dog Heaven, Cynthia Rylant (a children's book); High Maintenance, Jennifer Belle; The Hours, Michael Cunningham; The First Five Pages, A Writer's Guide to Staying Out of The Rejection Pile, Noah T. Lukeman

TOP 10 BOOKS OF 2003

Wonder When You'll Miss Me, Amanda Davis

The Rabbit Factory, Larry Brown
Atonement, Ian McEwan (2002 National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction, 2001 Booker Prize Shortlist)
Under the Banner of Heaven: A Story of Violent Faith, Jon Krakauer
The Ice Storm, Rick Moody
The Woman Who Cut Off Her Leg at the Maidstone Grill and Other Stories, Julia Slavin
Motherless Brooklyn, Jonathan Letham
Lucky Girls, Nell Freudenberger
Bad Behavior, Mary Gaitskill
Secret Life of Bees, Sue Monk Kidd
Other Good Reads of 2003: The Lovely Bones, Alice Sebold; July, July, Tim O'Brien; New Stories of the South, (Collection); One Continuous Mistake - Four Noble Truths for Writers

TOP 10 BOOKS OF 2004

The World Below, Sue Miller
The Secret History, Donna Tartt
Running with Scissors, Augusten Burroughs
The Lucky Ones, Rachel Cusk
A Parchment of Leaves, Silas House and The Coal Tattoo, Silas House
Eventide, Kent Haruf
Eats, Shoots & Leaves, Lynne Truss
Oracle Night, Paul Auster
The Perfect Mile, Neal Bascomb
The Working Poor: Invisible in America, David Shipler

TOP 10 BOOKS OF 2005

Kite Runner, Khaled Hosseini
Family Pictures, Sue Miller
The Shadow of the Wind, Carlos Ruiz Zafon
Patron Saint of Liars, Ann Patchett
Small Island, Andrea Levy
Little Children, Tom Perrotta
The Bright Forever, Lee Martin
God's Politics, Why the Right Gets It Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get It, Jim Wallis
Unfinished Season, Ward Just
The Wind-Up Bird Chronicles, Haruki Murakami
Curious Dog in the Incident of the Nighttime, Mark Haddon
Some others to consider:
The classic I read this year: Little Women; Best Short Story Collection: Dog of the Marriage, Amy Hempel; Cheesy Beach Read: Eleven on Top, Janet Evanovich

TOP 10 BOOKS OF 2006

Straight Man, Richard Russo
Wish You Were Here, and Everyday People, Stewart O'Nan
Beloved, Toni Morrison
After This, Alice McDermott
Thread of Grace, Mary Doria Russel
East of the Mountains, David Guterson

The Year of Magical Thinking, Joan Didion
Novel, George Singleton
Memory of Running, Ron McLarty
Death of a Salesman (audio), Arthur Miller
The Runners Up: The Mysteries of Glass, Sue Gee; The Thirteenth Tale, Diane Setterfield
The classic I revisited: Lolita, Vladimir Nabokov
The Pulitzer I re-read: A Thousand Acres, Jane Smiley
Best Short Story Collection: Music Through The Floor, Eric Puchner
Best Non-Fiction: Marley & Me, John Grogan

TOP 10 BOOKS OF 2007 & 2008

Unaccustomed Earth, Jhumpa Lahiri
Mudbound, Hillary Jordan (Awarded the 2006 Bellwether Prize for Fiction)
Then We Came to the End, Joshua Ferris
Lush Life, Richard Price
Mountains Beyond Mountains, Tracy Kidder
Mohawk, Richard Russo
The Monsters of Templeton, Lauren Groff
Animal, Vegetable, Miracle, Barbara Kingsolver
All The Way Home, David Giffels
Matrimony, Joshua Henkin
Also read in 2008: A Thousand Splendid Suns, Khaled Housseini; Starting Out In Evening, Brian Morton ;
Light on Snow, Anita Shreve (audio); Devil in the White City, Erik Larson (audio); The Godmother, Carrie
Adams; The Translation of Dr. Appelles, David Treuer; The Gravedigger's Daughter, Joyce Carol Oates ;
Away, Amy Bloom; No One Belongs Here More Than You, Miranda July
And then there were the dog books whereupon they either featured a dog or the dog was the
narrator or a dog had some minor role in the plot: Darkest Evening of the Year, Dean Koontz; Art of
Racing in the Rain, Garth Stein; Dogs of Babel, Carolyn Parkhurst; A Three Dog Life, Abigail Thomas

TOP 10 BOOKS OF 2009

The Sweet Hereafter, Russell Banks
More of This World or Maybe Another, Barb Johnson
Olive Kitteridge, Elizabeth Strout
The Senator's Wife, Sue Miller
A Gate At The Stairs, Lorrie Moore
Run, Ann Patchett
Songs for the Missing, Stewart O'Nan and The Double Bind, Chris Bohjalian
The Help, Kathryn Stockett
The Dubliners, James Joyce
That Old Cape Magic, Richard Russo
Non-Fiction Pick: Annie's Ghosts: A Journey Into A Family Secret, Steve Luxenberg
Other Good Reads: This Is When I Leave You, Jonathan Tropper The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel
Society, Mary Ann Shaffer The Cellist of Sarajevo, Steven Galloway Deep End of the Ocean, Jacquelyn
Mitchard Ghost at the Table, Suzanne Berne The Diary, Eileen Goudge Shelter Me, Juliette Day Prince of
Frogtown, Rick Bragg Rules for Saying Goodbye, Katherine Taylor

TOP 10 BOOKS OF 2010

The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake, Aimee Bender
The Truth About Celia, Kevin Brockmeier
The Night Watch, Sarah Waters
City of Thieves, David Benioff
Freedom, Jonathan Franzen
The Girl With The Glass Feet, Ali Shaw
Brother, I'm Dying, Edwidge Danticat
Never Let Me Go, Kazuo Ishiguro
A Visit From The Goon Squad, Jennifer Egan
Given Sugar, Given Salt by Jane Hirshfield

TOP 10 BOOKS 2011

The Brief History of the Dead, Kevin Brockmeier
The Unnamed, Joshua Ferris
Erasure, Percival Everett
Await Your Reply, Dan Chaon
Memory Wall, Anthony Doerr
A Widow's Story, Joyce Carol Oates
Permanent Visitors, Kevin Moffett
Next, James Hynes
Trophy, Michael Griffith
Room, Emma Donoghue
Classic Pick for the Year: The Handmaid's Tale, Margaret Atwood

TOP 10 BOOKS OF 2012

Night Circus, Erin Morgenstern
The Round House, Louise Erdrich
State of Wonder, Ann Patchett
The Illumination, Kevin Brockmeier
Dear Life, Alice Munro
Red Weather, Pauls Toutonghi
The Probable Future, Alice Hoffman
The Chemistry of Tears, Peter Carey
The Master's Muse, Varley O'Connor
What Happens Next, Colleen Clayton
Rabbit Hole: A Play, David Lindsay-Abaire
The Man Who Mistook His Wife For A Hat, Oliver Sacks
Classic Pick for the Year: Their Eyes Were Watching God, Zora Neale Hurston

TOP 10 BOOKS OF 2013

The Goldfinch, Donna Tartt
Regeneration, Pat Barker
Bell Canto, Ann Patchett
The Ocean at the End of the Lane and Fortunately, The Milk, Neil Gaiman
This Lovely Life, Vicki Forman
The Burgess Boys, Elizabeth Strout
A Constellation of Vital Phenomena, Anthony Marra
Let The Great World Spin, Colum McCann

Ancient Light, John Banville
Hallucinations, Oliver Sacks
Classic Pick: Dracula, Bram Stoker
Short Story Collection: Vampires in the Lemon Grove, Karen Russell
Poetry Pick: What's Written on the Body, Peter Pereira

Top 10 Books of 2014

All the Light We Cannot See, Anthony Doerr
A Land More Kind Than Home, Wiley Cash
We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves, Karen Joy Fowler
The Sandcastle Girls, Chris Bohjalian
Unbroken, Laura Hillenbrand
The Museum of Extraordinary Things, Alice Hoffman
Someone, Alice McDermott
About Grace, Anthony Doerr
Enon, Paul Harding
My Own Country, Abraham Verghese
BONUS: Short Story Collection: Bark, Lorrie Moore

Other books I read in 2014:

The Secret History of Wonder Woman, Jill Lepore
A Few Seconds of Radiant Filmstrip, Kevin Brockmeier
Nora Webster, Colm Toibin
Margot, Jillian Cantor
The Living, Lian Cullahan (friend of a friend)
Emily Alone, Stewart O'Nan
Astrid & Veronika, Linda Olsson
The Ice Queen, Alice Hoffman
Lucky Us, Amy Bloom
Midwives, Chris Bohjalian
We Are Not Ourselves, Matthew Thomas
Some Luck, Jane Smiley
I Want To Show You More, Jamie Qu

Top 10 Books of 2015

Station Eleven, by Emily St. John Mandel
Did You Ever Have A Family? by Bill Clegg
Everything I Never Told You, by Celeste Ng
Migratory Animals, by Mary Helen Sprecht
Get in Trouble, by Kelly Link
Awakenings, by Oliver Sacks
The Secret Wisdom of the Earth, by Christopher Scotten
The Green Road, by Ann Enright
The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History, by Elizabeth Kolbert
The World Before Us, by Aislinn Hunter

The 2016 Hopefuls - what I'm reading right now (yes, I multi-task) ...

A History of Loneliness by John Boyne (this will make my top 10 in 2016 for sure)

On the Move: A Memoir by Oliver Sacks
H is for Hawk by Helen MacDonal
Lost & Found by Brook Davis

The 2015 Clunkers - the most hyped books that I set aside this year ...

Purity by Jonathan Franzen (didn't do it for me like The Corrections and Freedom did)
Fates & Furies by Laura Groff (let me know if I should pick it back up)
Euphoria by Lily King (I finished it, begrudgingly)