

# ALA's 2010 Notable Books

## Fiction

Anthony, Jessica

***The Convalescent***

Rovar Pfielman, bus dwelling meat salesman, fulfills his destiny as the last of the last of his clan, in this oddly imaginative tale.

Atwood, Margaret

***The Year of the Flood: A Novel***

In the near future, two women survive an apocalyptic event in a queasily enthralling work.

Baker, Nicholson

***The Anthologist: A Novel***

A charming failure, poet Paul Chowder struggles to regain his muse and his girlfriend while watching deadlines slip by.

Chaon, Dan

***Await Your Reply: A Novel***

This chilling exploration of the modern meaning of identity follows three people on the fringes of society.

Cleave, Chris

***Little Bee: A Novel***

The compelling voice of a refugee illuminates the life-changing friendship between two women that began with a horrifying encounter on a secluded Nigerian beach.

Dexter, Pete

***Spooner***

A boy struggles to navigate the vagaries of the world with the lifelong guidance of his stepfather in this funny and heartbreaking tale.

Harding, Paul

***Tinkers***

In this lyrical novel, the life of a dying man is examined through the smallest moments of time and memory.

Li, Yiyun

***The Vagrants: A Novel***

The execution of a dissident woman reverberates through her small town in the aftermath of China's Cultural Revolution.

McCann, Colum

***Let the Great World Spin: A Novel***

Phillipe Petit's highwire walk between the Twin Towers provides the backdrop for this rich portrait of the unlikely connections among a group of New Yorkers in the 1970s.

Morrison, Toni

***A Mercy: A Novel***

Four women—white, mixed race, black and Native American—become a makeshift family under the care of a "good" man in colonial America.

Powers, Richard

***Generosity: An Enhancement***

In this postmodern indictment of the biotech industry, a student's unnerving happiness seems to hold the key to banishing despair from the human genetic code.

Tóibín, Colm

***Brooklyn: A Novel***

A young Irish woman faces heart-wrenching decisions in this unabashedly romantic and deceptively simple story of immigration and belonging.

## **Non-Fiction**

Cullen, Dave

***Columbine***

This fine work of investigative journalism challenges the myths and misconceptions of the Columbine tragedy.

Eggers, Dave

***Zeitoun***

This powerful account explores the devastation of post-Katrina New Orleans through the eyes of a Syrian-American who remained and endured the resulting chaos and confusion.

Finkel, David

***The Good Soldiers***

An embedded reporter describes the human cost paid by an Army battalion on the streets of Iraq in language that is searing, visceral and immediate.

Grann, David

***The Lost City of Z: A Tale of Deadly Obsession in the Amazon***

An intrepid reporter sets out to uncover the mysterious fate the last of the great Victorian explorers in this thrilling adventure.

Guibert, Emmanuel

***The Photographer: Into War-torn Afghanistan with Doctors Without Borders***

Using mixed visual media, this stunning memoir vividly depicts the struggles and accomplishments of a humanitarian mission in an unforgiving terrain.

Holmes, Richard

***The Age of Wonder: How the Romantic Generation Discovered the Beauty and Terror of Science***

This lively, stellar group biography animates the engrossing accounts of the research that inspired a sense of awe in poets and scientists alike.

Keefe, Patrick Radden

***Snakehead: An Epic Tale of the Chinatown Underworld & the American Dream.***

Human trafficking and its subsequent effects on the American economy and social structures are documented in this fast-paced panoramic expose.

McDougall, Christopher

***Born to Run: A Hidden Tribe, Superathletes, and the Greatest Race the World Has Never Seen.***

One journalist's quest to discover the secrets of the reclusive Tarahumara Indians leads to an exciting and dangerous endurance race.

Norman, Michael and Elizabeth M.

***Tears in the Darkness: The Story of the Bataan Death March and Its Aftermath***

In-depth, brutal and moving this narrative provides multiple perspectives into a tragic WWII episode in the Philippines.

Salisbury, Lainey and Aly Sujo

***Provenance: How a Con Man & A Forger Rewrote the History of Modern Art***

This enthralling page-turner describes how archivists uncovered one of the most extensive frauds in recent art history.

Small, David.

***Stitches: A Memoir***

Stark drawings give voice to the horrors of a child who find redemption in art while growing up in a repressed and disturbed family.

Thompson, Nicholas

***The Hawk and the Dove: Paul Nitze, George Kennan, and the History of the Cold War***

The remarkable half-century friendship and rivalry between two influential strategists who helped shape American policy is brought to life in this insightful dual biography.

## **Poetry**

Alexie, Sherman

***Face***

Autobiographical poems experimenting with various styles and forms explore childhood, fatherhood, and the trials, perks and humor of minor celebrity.

Dunn, Stephen

***What Goes On: Selected and New Poems 1995-2009***

Completely accessible poems written in ordinary language deal with cats, love, barfights, desire, melancholia and relationships.