

# 2026 Book Descriptions

## **The Clockmaker's Daughter** by Kate Morton

In the summer of 1862, a group of young artists led by the passionate and talented Edward Radcliffe descends upon Birchwood Manor on the banks of the Upper Thames. Their plan: to spend a secluded summer month in a haze of inspiration and creativity. But by the time their stay is over, one woman has been shot dead while another has disappeared; a priceless heirloom is missing; and Edward Radcliffe's life is in ruins.

## **Me Before You** by Jo Jo Moyes

A love story for this generation brings to life two people who couldn't have less in common --- a heartbreakingly romantic novel that asks: What do you do when making the person you love happy also means breaking your own heart?

## **The Personal Librarian** by Marie Benedict

The remarkable story of J. P. Morgan's personal librarian, Belle da Costa Greene, the Black American woman who was forced to hide her true identity and pass as white to leave a lasting legacy that enriched our nation.

## **The God of the Woods** by Liz Moore

Early morning, August 1975: a camp counselor discovers an empty bunk. Its occupant, Barbara Van Laar, has gone missing. Barbara isn't just any thirteen-year-old: she's the daughter of the family that owns the summer camp and employs most of the region's residents. And this isn't the first time a Van Laar child has disappeared. Barbara's older brother similarly vanished fourteen years ago, never to be found.

## **Broken Country** by Clare Leslie Hall

A love story with the pace and twists of a thriller, this is a novel of simmering passion, impossible choices and explosive consequences that toggles between the past and present to explore the far-reaching legacy of first love.

## **We Are All Guilty Here** by Karin Slaughter

Welcome to North Falls—a small town where everyone knows everyone. Or so they think. Until the night of the fireworks. When two teenage girls vanish, and the town ignites. For Officer Emmy Clifton, it's personal. She turned away when her best friend's daughter needed help—and now she must bring her home. But as Emmy combs through the puzzle the girls left behind, she realizes she never really knew them. Nobody did. Every teenage girl has secrets. But who would kill for them? And what else is the town hiding?

**Hour of the Witch** by Chris Bohjalian

A young Puritan woman --- faithful and resourceful, but afraid of the demons that dog her soul --- plots her escape from a violent marriage in this riveting and propulsive novel of historical suspense.

**The Paris Daughter** by Kristin Harmel

A gripping historical novel about two mothers who must make unthinkable choices in the face of the Nazi occupation.

**And the Mountains Echoed** by Khaled Hosseini

In this tale revolving around not just parents and children but brothers and sisters, cousins and caretakers, Hosseini explores the many ways in which families nurture, wound, betray, honor and sacrifice for one another; and how often we are surprised by the actions of those closest to us, at the times that matter most.

**The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store** by James McBride

When workers were digging the foundations for a new development, the last thing they expected to find was a skeleton at the bottom of a well. A novel about small-town secrets and the people who keep them.

**Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo** by Taylor Jenkins Reid

Aging and reclusive Hollywood movie icon Evelyn Hugo is finally ready to tell the truth about her glamorous and scandalous life. But when she chooses unknown magazine reporter Monique Grant for the job, no one is more astounded than Monique herself. Why her? Why now?

**Salt to the Sea** by Ruta Sepetys

A historical fiction novel set in 1945, during the final months of World War II. The story follows four young protagonists—Joana, Emilia, Florian, and Alfred—as their paths converge while fleeing East Prussia toward a ship that promises escape. The novel is based on the true story of the [Wilhelm Gustloff](#), a German ship that sank in the Baltic Sea and is considered the greatest maritime disaster in history.