At Home Reader

Reviews for Hennepin County At Home Readers

Nov./Dec. 2026

Reader Recommendations



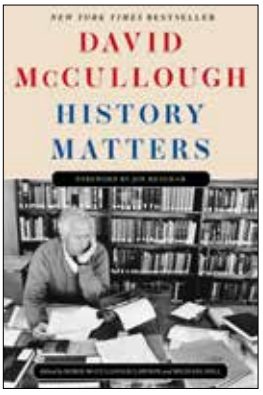
The Girl From Devil's Lake

By J.A. Jance

Arizona sheriff Joanna Brady investigates a murdered boy beneath a flooded desert bridge near Bisbee and uncovers links to multiple long-stalled cases, including a body found near Devil's Lake in North Dakota. As confidential details leak, she races to identify the concealed murderer before anyone else is harmed. I like all Jance's books!

Also available: large print, CD

Reviewed by Thelma F., At Home patron



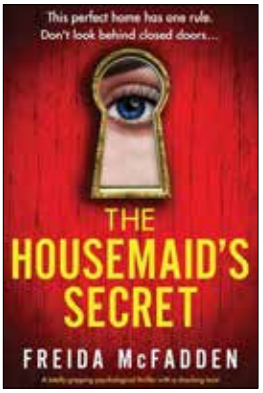
History Matters

By David McCullough

This posthumous collection presents McCullough's essays on Harry Truman and George Washington, showing how their leadership shaped his view of American civic life, the importance of character in political leaders, and other topics he explored. History may matter, but its lessons are often swamped by the greed or ambition of our leaders.

Available in large print

Reviewed by Richard P., At Home patron



The Housemaid's Secret

By Freida McFadden

A housekeeper hiding her past senses Mrs. Garrick is injured after hearing her cry and finding blood on her white nightgowns. She chooses to intervene, aiming to expose Douglas Garrick's abuse while protecting the woman. I love McFadden's books; the endings are always the best.

Also available: large print

Reviewed by Kathleen G., At Home patron

New Fiction Books

Alphabetical order by author

Contrapposto
By Dave Eggers
Cricket follows Olympia from their first act of playground vandalism into art school and decades of artistic work across the world. Their travels pull them through illness, ambition, upheaval, and a relentless drive to form their own movement.
Also available: large print

NYT The Shampoo Effect
By Jenny Jackson
Caroline joins Van's coastal village circle, a midlife crew juggling parenting and partying. Drawn to Van, she's cast out after Bailey becomes pregnant. Caroline then exposes the group's long-held secrets.
Also available: large print

Little Wonder
By Sophie Chen Keller
Song nurtures River as he progresses from tapping tunes on the piano at age four to mastering all of Chopin's études by age ten. After losing him in a busy Beijing Railway Station, both struggle to reunite.
Also available: large print

Country People
By Daniel Mason
Miles moves with his family to a remote Vermont college hoping to revive his stalled Ph.D. Instead, he's drawn into the town's eccentric characters and a strange local legend that may be true.
Also available: large print

Everything Was Beautiful and Nothing Hurt
By Ben Reeves
Travis, the human form of Death, guides people through their final moments and never alters their fate. After meeting his neighbors Dalia and her daughter Layla, he learns what it means to live and what is lost when life ends.
Also available: large print, CD

The Great Wherever
By Shannon Sanders
Aubrey inherits her father's share of a farm first bought by her great-grandfather, one of the area's earliest Black landowners. Facing the family's history and its ghosts, she must decide whether the land's legacy fits her future.

NYT The True Meaning of Love
By Danielle Steel
As war engulfs Ukraine, civilians endure forced service, escape attempts, and collapsing hospitals. The novel presents intertwined accounts of ordinary people protecting one another and preserving humanity under relentless attack.
Also available: large print

NYT Cool Machine
By Colson Whitehead
Carney's final heist unfolds as early 1980s New York shifts from fiscal collapse to sweeping redevelopment across the city. Later, he and Pepper face dangers from old criminal ties while protecting Freddie's son.
Also available: large print

Etna
By Paul Yoon
Told from Etna's canine perspective, the story follows an ex-military dog who leaves his unit to find the village of his early life. Etna's odyssey through postwar terrain brings him into contact with animals and humans working to rebuild their lives.
Also available: large print, CD

NYT New York Times Bestseller

New Nonfiction Books

Alphabetical order by author

Make Believe: On Telling Stories to Children

By Mac Barnett

A popular children's author uses humor and academic rigor to show how young readers treat literature as serious art. He presents stories as a portal into children's lives and urges reading for pleasure to counter declining literacy levels.

Also available: large print

NYT All That's Unseen: An Appalachian Memoir

By Emilee Hackney

Growing up in the Appalachian Mountains of southwest Virginia, Hackney becomes engaged at a young age after joining a strict Pentecostal church. Later, she leaves the relationship, enrolls at Harvard, and reassesses her past.

Monster of a Land: On the Road in Search of Modern America

By Lauren Hough

In this social commentary, the author refurbishes a van and departs Austin, Texas with her dog to interview Americans across the country. The journey captures detailed accounts of poverty, marginalization, and diverse political viewpoints.

Mother Tongue: A Memoir

By Sara Nović

Nović describes hiding her deafness until finding a tight-knit ASL (American Sign Language) community in childhood. She reflects on raising hearing and deaf sons, deepening her engagement with adoption issues and disability barriers.

Also available: large print

NYT The Renoir Girls: A Hidden History of Art, War, and Betrayal

By Catherine Ostler

Three privileged Parisian Jewish sisters, painted by Renoir, see their world diminished by rising antisemitism. Newly uncovered letters and diaries reveal how their lives ultimately diverged before World War II.

NYT This is Me: A Reckoning

By Hayden Panettiere

This memoir traces actress Hayden Panettiere's early public rise, intense scrutiny, and struggles with postpartum depression, addiction, and trauma. She passed away three months after the book was published.

Trash! A Garbageman's Story

By Simon Paré-Poupart

A longtime garbageman recounts dangerous routes, tight-knit crews, and hilarious, nerve-racking stories that reveal how people ignore the waste they generate. He shows how the job's pace, grit, and freedom match his temperament.

Hotel Exile: Paris in the Shadow of War

By Jane Rogoyska

Opening in 1910, Hotel Lutetia later hosts displaced artists and activists preparing resistance as fascism rises. During occupation it becomes a German intelligence base, then a postwar center where Holocaust survivors register and seek missing relatives.

Sea Salt Eatery: Recipes to Enjoy Year-Round

By Gail Rosenblum and Kait Ziemer-Davis

Sea Salt Eatery recounts its growth from a modest South Minneapolis fish stand to a bustling seasonal spot near Minnehaha Falls. Recipes and employee stories highlight its signature seafood and the community that gathers there.

Title summaries taken from the Library catalog.

More New Books

Alphabetical order by author

Fiction

The Children
By Melissa Albert
Also available: large print

NYT The Amateur
By Chris Bohjalian
Also available: large print

The Castle in the Glen
By Rhys Bowen

Pool House
By Mary H.K. Choi

NYT God's Country
By William Kent Krueger
Also available: large print, CD

NYT Theo of Golden
By Allen Levi
Also available: large print

Alan Opts Out
By Courtney Maum

Down With the Shipmans
By Meg Mitchell Moore
Also available: large print

Heather
By Caitlin Mullen
Also available: large print

The Story Keeper
By Kelly Rimmer

NYT The Unknown
By Riley Sager
Also available: large print

Wisdom Corner
By David Heska Wanbli Weiden

Cozy Mystery

The Tattered Cover
By Ellery Adams
Also available: large print

Probable Caws
By Donna Andrews
Also available: large print

Murder From A to Z
By V.M. Burns
Also available: large print

Tell-Tale Treats
By Jennifer J. Chow
Also available: large print

The Subtle Pleasures of Indiscretion
By Alexander McCall Smith
Also available: large print, CD

The Mysterious Affair of Judith Potts
By Robert Thorogood
Also available: CD

Historical

The Half Life
By Rachel Beanland
Also available: large print, CD

Teach the Torches to Burn
By Christina Dodd
Also available: large print

NYT Meet Me in Paris
By Kristin Harmel
Also available: large print, CD

Where the Wildflowers Grow
By Terah Shelton Harris
Also available: large print

A Tender Age
By Chang-rae Lee
Also available: large print

Summer of Love
By Kerri Maher
Also available: large print

The Intrigue
By Silvia Moreno-Garcia
Also available: large print

The Parisian Heist
By Jo Piazza
Also available: large print

A Fortune of Sand
By Ruta Sepetys
Also available: large print

NYT New York Times Bestseller

This is a selection from the new titles that Hennepin County Library has ordered.

When You Loved Me
By Beatriz Williams
Also available: large print

A Year of Marvelous Ways
By Sarah Winman
Also available: large print

Humorous

Phoebe Berman's Gonna Lose It
By Brooke Averick
Also available: large print

We Are Gathered Here Today
By Bobby Finger
Also available: large print

NYT The Romance Revival
By Christina Lauren
Also available: large print, CD

Meeting New People
By Daniel M. Lavery

Mystery

A Twist in the River
By Stig Abell
Also available: CD

Deep Water
By Brett Battles
Also available: large print

Vanished in the Crowd
By Rhys Bowen and Clare Broyles
Also available: large print

Storm Tide
By Paul Doiron
Also available: large print

Sex on Murder Island
By Jo Firestone

Fear the Reaper
By David Housewright

Dead Men Don't Play Fetch
By David Rosenfelt
Also available: large print

City of Promises
By Victoria Thompson
Also available: large print, CD

Religious

The Lumber Baron's Wife
By Lynn Austin
Also available: large print

Conspiracy
By Colleen Coble
Also available: large print

A Life So True
By Tracie Peterson
Also available: large print, CD

Scent of Hope
By Susan May Warren
Also available: large print

Romance

Twisted Road
By Christine Feehan
Also available: CD

NYT Love You More
By Emily Giffin
Also available: large print

The Last Lady B
By Eloisa James
Also available: large print, CD

Abby Offsides
By Anna McCallie

The Summer Share
By Jenn McKinlay
Also available: large print

Free Falling
By Jill Shalvis
Also available: large print

The Rainy Day Bookshop
By RaeAnne Thayne
Also available: large print

The Missed Connection
By Tia Williams
Also available: large print

More New Books

Alphabetical order by author

Science Fiction/Fantasy

The Unicorn Hunters
By Katherine Arden
Also available: large print

NYT The Knave and the Moon
By Rachel Gillig

The Blackthorn Women
By Jess Lourey

NYT A Forsaken Prophecy
By Stacey McEwan

Short Stories

Hot Chocolate on Thursday
By Michiko Aoyama
Also available: large print

A Dark Path: And Other Kate Burkholder Short Stories
By Linda Castillo

Birds of Prey: New Crime Stories
Edited by Harlan Coben and C.J. Box
Also available: large print

Deceptions
By Jeffery Deaver
Also available: large print

It Will Come Back to You: Collected Stories
By Sigrid Nunez

The Typing Lady: And Other Fictions
By Ruth Ozeki

Thriller

NYT You'll Be Sorry
By Lisa Gardner
Also available: large print

Not What It Seems
By Lisa Jackson
Also available: large print

It Could Have Been Her
By Lisa Jewell
Also available: large print

Wait and See
By Iris Johansen and Roy Johansen
Also available: large print

Helpless
By Jessica Knoll
Also available: large print

NYT Getting Away with Murder
By Shari Lapena
Also available: large print

That Night
By Gillian McAllister
Also available: large print, CD

Someone Else's Husband
By Kimberly McCreight
Also available: large print

NYT Delusional
By James Patterson and James O. Born
Also available: large print, CD

The Women in White
By Sarah Pekkanen
Also available: large print

Under the Falls
By Richard Russo
Also available: large print

This Changes Everything
By Lisa Scottoline
Also available: large print

NYT Ransom
By Daniel Silva
Also available: large print

NYT New York Times Bestseller

This is a selection from the new titles that Hennepin County Library has ordered.

The Secrets We Hide
By Karin Slaughter
Also available: large print, CD

Nine Lives
By Catherine Steadman
Also available: large print

Western

Preacher's Hell
By William W. Johnstone and J.A. Johnstone
Also available: large print

As Flame to Smoke
By Rod Miller
Available only in large print

Part of Your World
By Karen Witemeyer
Available only in large print

Nonfiction

1873: The Rothschilds, the First Great Depression, and the Making of the Modern World
By Liaquat Ahamed

You Won't Get Free of It: Stories of Mothers and Daughters
By Rachel Aviv

The Yahoo Boys: Love, Deception, and the Real Lives of Nigeria's Romance Scammers
By Carlos Barragán

American Patriarch: The Life of George Washington
By H.W. Brands
Also available: large print

NYT Catch the Devil: A True Story of Murder, Deception, and Injustice on the Gulf Coast
By Pamela Colloff
Also available: large print

The Reverse Centaur's Guide to Life After AI: How to Think About Artificial Intelligence — Before It's Too Late
By Cory Doctorow

The Cruelty of Nice Folks: Why Minneapolis Is the Story of America
By Justin Ellis

Strike! Twenty Days in 1970 When Minneapolis Teachers Broke the Law
By William D. Green

NYT Regime Change: Inside the Imperial Presidency of Donald Trump
By Maggie Haberman and Jonathan Swan
Also available: CD

NYT Biological War: A Scenario
By Annie Jacobsen

NYT Communion: Finding My Way Back to Faith
By J.D. Vance

Sisters of the Midnight Sun: A Murder in Arctic Alaska
By Rebecca Wright Stevens

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The *At Home Reader* is funded by Friends of the Hennepin County Library. It is produced six times each year and distributed as a book selection aid to Hennepin County Library Outreach patrons.
For more information, call 612-543-8850.

HCL 10/2026

Book Reviews

Send us a review of a book that you've enjoyed. In a few sentences, tell us the plot and what you especially liked about the book. Reviews may be published in future issues of the *At Home Reader.* We'll include your first name and last initial only. Editing for space may be necessary.

Title: _____

Author: _____

Review: _____

_____

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Name: _____ Phone: _____

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