

## Durham Tech Faculty & Staff Best Books of 2016

Book Title	Author	Reason?	How to get a copy through the Durham Tech Library
An Ember in the Ashes	Sabaa Tahir	Great adventure with worldbuilding and lovable (and hateable) characters. A must read if you like fantasy books!	Main: PZ 7.1 .T33 Em 2015
As You Wish: Inconceivable Tales from the Making of The Princess Bride	Cary Elwes	One of my favorite movies of all time. No other explanation needed if you love the movie, you'll enjoy the book!	Available through ILL
Big Little Lies	Liane Moriarty	It was a book about gossipy ladies concerned with trivial things and engrossed in their own quirky behaviors, until it got real. The author did an excellent job of pulling the reader in deeper and delivered a strong message about caring for our neighbors.	Main: PR 9619.4 .M67 B54 2014
Bread, Wine, Chocolate: The Slow Death of Foods We Love	Simran Sethi	This book changed the way I drink my morning coffee, so it's safe to say that it changed my life.	S 494.5 .A43 S425 2015
Cutting for Stone	Abraham Verghese		Main & OCC: PS 3622 .E744 C87 2010
Dear Mr. You	Mary-Louise Parker	I had to read it because she's long been one of my favorite actresses. Her book is autobiographical but unique in that it is a series of letters written to men that have impacted her life in various ways – ex-lovers, her father, a taxi driver. I found it to be funny, surprising, intimate, poignant, and hard to put down.	Available through ILL
Drinking Water: A History	James Salzman	You wouldn't think a book on the history of water could be interesting, but Salzman (a professor at Duke's School of the Environment) makes this topic a really entertaining read. He tells the story of how drinking water had been supplied, regulated, and treated throughout history its cultural significance across cultures, key players in the evolution of water supply and treatment, and the key issues we face related to drinking water today. You may think twice about your bottle of Deer Park water after reading this.	Available through ILL
Every Little Step	Bobby Brown	Bobby Brown often gets a bad rap in the media and gets painted as the "bad boy of R&B", but in this book, I got to hear his side of the story. Bobby accounts his story from when he joined New Edition all the way up to his ex-wife's (Whitney Houston), and daughter's (Bobbi Kristina) deaths, and how he made his way through it all.	Available through ILL
Everybody's Fool	Richard Russo	his sequel to Russo's 1993 novel Nobody's Fool (which was adopted to film starring Paul Newman, Bruce Willis, and Melanie Griffith) revisits the lives of Sully, Rub, and Raymer in the fictional upstate New York town of North Bath during a weird weekend in May. Russo demonstrates an extraordinary gift of language and presents characters who both surprise you and convince you.	Available through ILL
Fast into the night: A woman, her dogs, and their journey north on the Iditarod Trail	Debbie Moderow	This nonfiction story of a woman dog musher in Alaska overcoming many obstacles was an inspirational and fascinating read.	Main: SF 440.15 .M62 2016

Fatherland	Robert Harris	The movie does not do the book justice.  It was a very good book. Those that remember the Cold War will appreciate this book the most. But it is a good alternate universe book (the Nazis won the war) and is a detective-type story. It also gives a reminder of how brutal the Holocaust was.	Northern Durham: PR 6058 .A68854 F38 1993x
Funny in Farsi : A Memoir of Growing up Iranian in America	Firoozeh Dumas	This is essays about a woman from Iran living in the US for a few years as at teenager (in the early 70s) and then later in life in college and after immigrating to the US.	Available through ILL
Girl Waits with Gun	Amy Stewart	Based on a true story in the early 1900's. These sisters are memorable characters.	Available through ILL
Hild	Nicola Griffith	A novel about the historical figure St. Hilda of Whitby. It does what any great historical fictional does: transports you back in time and gives you a keen sense of what it was like to live in a faraway time and place (in this case, 7th-century England).	Available through ILL
Homegoing	Yaa Gyasi	This book was noted as a Durham Tech favorite summer read, so I picked it up. It really is an amazing book. The English major/former English teacher in me was wowed by the powerful characterization and the structure of the novel (it alternates between two branches of a family, moving forward one generation a chapter, and goes through major historical movements/events).	Main: PS 3607 .Y37 H66 2016 (currently checked out)
If You Lived Here, I'd Know Your Name: News from Small-Town Alaska	Heather Lende	This is stories about small-town Alaska written by a woman who writes the local obituaries.	Available through ILL
In a Dark, Dark Wood	Ruth Ware	Mystery with strong women characters	Available through ILL
In Cold Blood	Truman Capote	This book is as good as the hype says. It actually left me breathless while reading.	Main & Northern Durham: HV 6533 .K3 C3
Left Neglected	Lisa Genova	It was an interesting read about an accomplished young professional and mother who suffers a traumatic head injury and her journey to reinvent herself. Lisa Genova was the author of 'Still Alice' too. I think our OTA students would enjoy the read.	Available through ILL
Modern Romance	Aziz Ansari and Eric Klinenberg	HILARIOUS. INSIGHTFUL. FASCINATING. All words I can use to describe this book on dating and relationships in the digital age. I would recommend the audiobook on this because it is read by Aziz himself -- I laughed out loud the entire time. The book is a great mix of facts, advice, and comedy.	Main: HQ 801 .A595 2015
Modern Romance	Aziz Ansari and Eric Klinenberg	Ansari, one of my favorite comedians, joined forces with a sociologist to investigate the world of online dating, technology, and relationships in the digital age. It is really hilarious at times, often serious, and truly insightful and interesting.	Main: HQ 801 .A595 2015
My Grandmother Asked Me To Tell You She's Sorry	Frederik Backman	The stories we are told as children become legends, but how do we determine what the truth is? This book was so intriguing I have it on my list to read to my grandchildren (when that time comes). Honest, brutal, though provoking and magical.	Available through ILL

Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking [a Durham Tech Library Book Club pick]	Susan Cain	favorite nonfiction	Main & OCC: BF 698.35 .I59 C35 2013
Ready Player One	Ernest Cline		Main & OCC: PS 3603 .L548 R43 2011
Sea Change	S. M. Wheeler	I read this book at the beginning of last year and its still haunting my thoughts.	Main: PS 3623 .H447 S43 2013
Shaken: Discovering your True Identity in the Midst of Life's Storms	Tim Tebow	<p>I LOVED the book because he was transparent and unashamed about his feelings towards his experiences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· It was relatable.</li> <li>· I finished the book feeling empowered and ready to rediscover who I am this year after experiencing the challenges from last year.</li> </ul>	Available through ILL
Shantytown, USA: Forgotten Landscapes of the Working Poor	Lisa Goff		Available through ILL
Someone Knows My Name	Lawrence Hill	This was a great read about a child (among many others) who was kidnapped from Africa and enslaved in South Carolina. Heartbreaking details and images of injustice and inhumanity.	Main: PR 9199.3 .H479 B66 2008
The Art Forger	BA Shapiro	I loved the insight the author gave on how works of art are developed (and forged) and it made me want to go to an art museum to take a second look. There was intrigue, history and new knowledge--what's not to love!	Available through ILL
The Brothers K	David James Duncan	favorite fiction	Main: PS 3554 .U4634 B7 1996
The Fate of the Tearling	Erika Johansen	The final book in a series I LOVE (see The Queen of the Tearling for the first in the series). There's nothing better (or worse) than when the last book in a series you love is disappointing; luckily, this wasn't the case for me. I love how this series struggles with the consequences of doing what is morally just, even when the consequences are difficult. No spoilers. Just read it.	PS 3610 .O253 Q44 2014 (the first in the series; others available through ILL)
The Magnoila Story	Mark Dagostino, Chip Gaines, Joanna Gaines	I love watching the show Fixer' Upper not only for the homes and interior design portions but because Chip and Joanna's personality just grab your attention. Their book allowed me to understand why I smile and laugh along with them. Their relationships to each other, their family and religion all blend together to make a them wonderful inspiring couple.	Available through ILL
The Martian [a Durham Tech Library Book Club pick]	Andy Weir	You remember the movie "Apollo 13" with Tom Hanks? That scene where the guy says "We have to figure out how to connect this thing to this thing using this table full of parts or the astronauts will all die?" "The Martian" is for people who wish the whole movie was more of that scene.	Main & OCC: PS 3623 .E446 M37 2014
The Rainbow Comes and Goes: A Mother and Son on Life, Love, and Loss	Anderson Cooper and Gloria Vanderbilt	I recommend the audiobook on this too because it is read by the authors conversational-style. I felt like I was in the room with them as they spoke about their fascinating life stories, their losses and regrets, and their love for one another.	Main: PN 4874 .C683 A3 2016

The Raven King	Maggie Stiefvater	This is the final book in the Raven Cycle and I've loved the entire series. These books do a compelling job of combining magical realism with humor. I really enjoy when books have smatterings of other languages and I appreciate that Stiefvater does not translate the Latin and Welsh she uses in the story. This book was something fun and quick to read but the story has stayed with me.	Series available through ILL
The Road to Character	David Brooks	Brooks is a conservative columnist for the New York Times who draws a distinction between "resume virtues" (those activities or accomplishments we use to promote ourselves in the furtherance of our career) and "eulogy virtues" (the qualities we want people to remember us for once we're gone). He then provides vignettes of several individuals throughout history—some very well-known and some who are relatively obscure—whose lives embodied in one way or another some of those "eulogy virtues" that, in Brooks' estimation, lead to a life of character.	Available through ILL
The Russian Debutant's Handbook	Gary Shteyngart	Shteyngart, who is himself a Russian immigrant, tells the story of Vladimir Ghirskin, who moved from St. Petersburg to America with his parents and finds himself, at the age of 23 working as an intake clerk at the Emma Lazarus Immigrant Absorption Society in lower Manhattan. This coming-of-age novel is remarkable in demonstrating both the author's ear for his adopted language and his ability to describe and satirize America and the former Soviet Union in the last decade of the 20th century.	Available through ILL
The Serpent King	Jeff Zentner	I like it because it reminds me of Tennessee, my home state, but it also reminds me about how different everyone's lives are and the path they lead. It also sent me down memory lane because I had some very close friends in high school by whom I always felt intellectually stimulated.	Available through ILL
The Thirteenth Tale	Diane Setterfield		Main & OCC: PS 3619 .E86 T48 2006
The Three-Body Problem	Cixin Liu	"The Three Body Problem" starts slowly in the Cultural Revolution in China and becomes a dramatic study of how one person's experiences and perceptions have world-changing consequences. First in a series of three, translated from Chinese.	Main: PL 2947 .C59 S3613 2016 (currently checked out)
The Woman in Cabin 10	Ruth Ware	Mystery with strong women characters	Available through ILL
What Is the What	Dave Eggers	it's about one of the Lost Boys from Sudan and the hardships he went through. It was amazing and heartwarming to see how a person can be strong and resilient and still have kindness in his heart even after he saw death with his own eyes.	Main: PS 3605 .G48 W43 2007
What the Dog Saw	Malcolm Gladwell	I love his books as I have great interest in human behavior and psychology.	Available through ILL