

## Durham Tech Faculty & Staff Best Books of 2017

Book Title	Author	Reason?	How to get a copy through the Durham Tech Library
<i>A Closed and Common Orbit</i>	Becky Chambers	The only book that can be described as both 'Space Opera' AND 'heartwarming'	Available through ILL
<i>A Fine Old Conflict</i>	Jessica Mitford	Best known for her "American Way of Death," the author had five sisters (two ardent Nazi enthusiasts, a duchess, a very private country woman, and a novelist who based her successful fiction on the family). This is Jessica's sympathetic (and often irreverent) overview of her own Communist Party years.	Available through ILL
<i>A Gentleman in Moscow</i>	Amor Towles		PS 3620 .O945 G46 2016 (Main)
<i>Adulthood is a Myth</i>	Sarah Anderson	Sarah Scribbles is hilarious and this book made me laugh so hard my stomach hurt.	Available through ILL
<i>All the Light We Cannot See</i>	Anthony Doer		PS 3604 .O34 A77 (Main & OCC)
<i>Armada</i>	Ernest Cline		PS 3603 .L548 A89 2015 (Main)
<i>Boltzmann's Atom</i>	David Lindley	Between 1870 and 1905, Ludwig Boltzmann laid the foundations for an atomic and statistical theory of gases. Here is a readable account of the man, his contribution, and his time.	Available through ILL
<i>Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood</i>	Trevor Noah		PN 2287 .N557 A3 2016 (Main)
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<i>Court of Wings and Ruin</i>	Sarah J. Maas		Available through ILL
<i>Dark Carousel</i>	Christine Feehan		Available through ILL
<i>Dog Medicine: How My Dog Saved Me from Myself</i>	Julie Barton		Available through ILL
<i>Essentialism: The Disciplined Pursuit of Less</i>	Greg McKeown		Available through ILL
<i>Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City</i>	Matthew Desmond	Everyone should read this book.	HD 7287.96 .U6 D47 2016 (OCC)
<i>Flight Behavior</i>	Barbara Kingsolver		PS 3561 .I496 F55 2013 (Main)
<i>For the Winner</i>	Emily Hauser	Greek myths of Atalanta and the Golden Fleece presented as riveting historical fiction by a classics scholar	Available through ILL
<i>Glass Houses</i>	Louise Penny		Available through ILL
<i>Grocery: The Buying and Selling of Food in America</i>	Michael Ruhlman		Available through ILL

<i>Half of a Yellow Sun</i>	Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie		PR 9387.9 .A34354 H35 (Main & OCC)
<i>Homegoing</i>	Yaa Gyasi		PS 3607 .Y37 H66 2016 (Main)
<i>In the Company of Women: Inspiration and Advice from Over 100 Makers, Artists, and Entrepreneurs</i>	Grace Bonny		HD 6057.5 .U5 B66 2016
<i>In the Shadow of Lakecrest</i>	Elizabeth Blackwell		Available through ILL
<i>In the Time of the Butterflies</i>	Julia Alvarez		PS 3551 .L845 I5 1994 (Main)
<i>Invisible Man</i>	Ralph Ellison		PS 3555 .L625 I5 (Main, NDC, OCC)
<i>Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI</i>	David Grann		E 99 .08 G675 2017 (OCC)
<i>Laika</i>	Nick Abadzis		PN 6737 .A24 L35 2007 (Main)
<i>Lincoln in the Bardo</i>	George Saunders	So very beautiful	Available through ILL
<i>Little Fires Everywhere</i>	Celeste Ng		Available through ILL; Celeste Ng's other book, <i>Everything I Never Told You</i> , is available at PS 3614 .G83 E94 2014 (Main)
<i>My Favorite Thing Is Monsters</i>	Emil Ferris	Just read it. Well, read it twice-- first time for the story, second time so you can continue to admire all the amazing illustrations	PN 6727 .F4646 M9 2017 (OCC)
<i>Ready Player One</i>	Ernest Cline	What a fun read (... and soon to be a movie)!	PS 3603 .L548 R43 (Main & OCC)
<i>Ready Player One</i>	Ernest Cline		PS 3603 .L548 R43 (Main & OCC)
<i>Red Notice: A True Story of High Finance, Murder, and One Man's Fight for Justice</i>	Bill Browder		Available through ILL
<i>Red Summer: The Summer of 1919 and the Awakening of Black America</i>	Cameron McWhirter	In 1919, "race riots" occurred across the US, not only in the Old South but in New England, the Midwest, and the West. Many of the incidents are familiar only to specialists. This book provides summaries of many of those events.	E 185.61 .M4794 2011 (Main)

<p><i>Reskilling America : Learning to Labor in the Twenty-First Century</i></p>	<p>Katherine Newman and Hella Winston</p>	<p>This is a valuable book covering topics related to career/technical (vocational) education in American high schools and community colleges. The authors make a strong case for better support for trades education at the secondary and community college level. I agree heartily with that idea, however have a couple of quibbles with details of their arguments.</p> <p>1-The authors have a lengthy, and rather contradictory, discussion of the role of math in trades education. On the one hand, they praise the German system of vocational education, which includes a strong component of science and math, including algebra. However when the authors come to discuss the American educational system, their thesis is that too much algebra, etc., is being required, leading to low success rates. Their solution seems to be that algebra should be eliminated from such curricula, but they backpedal immediately, admitting that “basic algebra” and even “simple trigonometry” (whatever that is) are valuable. Apparently American educators simply cannot find the algebra Goldilocks zone, silly them.</p> <p>As an educator with some experience in the area, I can say that the authors are flat out wrong. Modern skilled workers in advanced manufacturing do in fact need algebra, as well as trigonometry and even statistics. In addition, they need to be conversant with computer programming, where the analytical tools of mathematics, including algebra, are of great assistance in developing programming skills. There I find the critical flaw in this book—the authors have a background in educational policy, not engineering, and it really shows.</p> <p>2-The book spends quite a bit of time on the German model of vocational education, with its structured apprenticeship system. This system is very successful in partnership with the strong unions and worker-oriented corporate governance established in Germany. (By law, unions have voting representation corporate boards in Germany, very different from American corporate management!) Direct translation of this system to American industry is problematic—to their credit, the authors acknowledge this. Still, the apprenticeship model is a good one for filling the “skills gap” in American Industry.</p>	<p>LC 1045 .N49 2016 (Main)</p>
<p><i>Sourdough</i></p>	<p>Robin Sloan</p>	<p>heard about through the Durham Tech Library Blog; read it while re-starting my sourdough starter for holiday baking</p>	<p>PS 3619 .L6278 S67 2017 (Main)</p>
<p><i>Stay with Me</i></p>	<p>Ayobami Adebayo</p>		<p>Available through ILL</p>
<p><i>The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian</i></p>	<p>Sherman Alexie</p>		<p>PZ 7 .A382 Ab (Main &amp; OCC)</p>
<p><i>The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World</i></p>	<p>Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu</p>	<p>They talk about how to find joy (which is internal) in life, not happiness (which depends on outer influences). I knew very little about the Dalai Lama or Desmond Tutu, but I know they faced serious oppression (exile, violence...) and yet they are both very joyful. The book explores how we can all have more joy in our lives. And reading about their friendship is uplifting. I highly recommend it.</p>	<p>BL 65 .H36 B78 2016 (Main)</p>
<p><i>The Book Thief</i></p>	<p>Markus Zusak</p>		<p>PZ 7 .Z837 (Main &amp; OCC)</p>
<p><i>The Cottingley Secret</i></p>	<p>Hazel Gaynor</p>	<p>fictionalized version of the girls whose pictures cemented Arthur Conan Doyle's belief in fairies</p>	<p>Available through ILL</p>

<i>The Crush Saga (series)</i>	Chrissy Peebles	young adult featuring witches, vampires and werewolves – my favorites; I would recommend reading The Crush Saga first but The Ice Pack could be a stand-alone	Available on Amazon
<i>The Handmaid's Tale</i>	Margaret Atwood		PR 9199.3 .A8 H3 (Main & OCC)
<i>The Ice Pack (series)</i>	Chrissy Peebles	young adult featuring witches, vampires and werewolves – my favorites; I would recommend reading The Crush Saga first but The Ice Pack could be a stand-alone	Available on Amazon
<i>The Keeper of Secrets</i>	Julie Thomas	very inspirational about how music and a violin serves as a source of hope as well as a source of encouragement for two different generations of a Jewish family	Available through ILL
<i>The Lying Game</i>	Ruth Ware		PR 6123 .A745 L95 2017 (Main)
<i>The Man Who Saved The Union: Ulysses S. Grant in War and Peace.</i>	H.W. Brands		Available through ILL
<i>The Nightingale</i>	Kristin Hannah		PS 3558 .A4763 N55 2015 (Main)
<i>The Ocean at the End of Lane</i>	Neil Gaiman		PR 6057 .A319 O24 2013 (Main)
<i>The Only Investment Guide you'll Ever Need</i>	Andrew Tobias		Available through ILL
<i>The Physician</i>	Noah Gordon	an English orphan's all-consuming journey to be a physician in the Dark Ages, first in a trilogy	Available through ILL
<i>The Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America's Shining Women</i>	Kate Moore		HD 6067.2 .U6 M66 2017 (Main)
<i>The Rules Do Not Apply: A Memoir</i>	Ariel Levy		CT 275 .L3777 A3 2017 (Main)
<i>The Shining Girls</i>	Lauren Beukes	Really, I loved Zoo City the most, but I read three of Lauren Beukes' books this year and they were all great	PR 9369.4 .B485 S55 2013 (Main)
<i>The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry</i>	Gabrielle Zevin		PS 3626 .E95 S86 2014 (Main)
<i>The Twelve Lives of Samuel Hawley</i>	Hannah Tinti		Available through ILL
<i>The War I Always Wanted: The Illusion of Glory and the Reality of War</i>	Brandon Friedman		Available through ILL
<i>Themis Files (Sleeping Giants &amp; Waking Gods)</i>	Sylvain Neuvel		Available through ILL
<i>Tower of Dawn</i>	Sarah J. Maas		Available through ILL
<i>Way Out in Dog Heaven</i>	Kathryn Ewers Bundy	First in the the Pettigrew Farm trilogy. The stories revolve around a young bi-racial girl who inherits her family farm in or near Henderson, NC. So far, the first volume is great and really pulls the reader in.	Available on Amazon
<i>We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves</i>	Karen Joy Fowler		PS 3556 .O844 W4 2013 (Main)

<i>Y Is for Yesterday</i>	Sue Grafton		See others in The Kinsey Millhone Alphabet Series at PS 3557 .R13 (Main & NDC)
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