Tracy Chevalier – Books I’ve read since 2002

2020

January
The Unfinished Palazzo: Life, Love and Art In Venice Judith Mackrell
Once Upon a River Diane Setterfield
What It Is: Race, Family, and One Thinking Black Man’s Blues Clifford Thompson

February
Pachinko Min Jin Lee
Long Bright River Liz Moore
Girl, Woman, Other Bernardine Evaristo

March
Djinn Patrol on the Purple Line Deepa Anappara
Brixton Hill Lottie Moggach
Adults Emma Jane Unsworth
Weather Jenni Offill

April
I Capture the Castle Dodie Smith (reread)
The Wheelwright's Daughter Eleanor Porter
Red at the Bone Jacqueline Woodson
Redhead by the Side of the Road Anne Tyler
Girl with Green Eyes Edna O'Brien

May
The Great Godden Meg Rosoff
The Seduction Joanna Briscoe
Lost Children Archive Valeria Luiselli

June
1234: The Beatles in Time Craig Brown
The Golden Rule Amanda Craig
An American Marriage Tayari Jones
The Courage to Care Christie Watson
Writers & Lovers Lily King

July
Queenie Candice Carty-Williams
The Confessions of Frannie Langton Sara Collins
Girl A Abigail Dean
Cassandra at the Wedding Dorothy Baker*
Rodham Curtis Sittenfeld

August
Silence Is a Sense Layla AlAmmar
Patch Work Claire Wilcox
Corrigedora Gayl Jones
The Enchanted April Elizabeth von Arnim
Mexican Gothic Silvia Moreno-Garcia
Some Kids I Taught and What They Taught Me Kate Clanchy*
September
Small Pleasures Clare Chambers
The Girl with the Louding Voice Abi Dare
How Much of These Hills is Gold C Pam Zhang
Love After Love Ingrid Persaud

October
The Emperor’s Babe Bernardine Evaristo
Clean: A Story of Addiction Michele Kirsch
Such a Fun Age Kiley Reid
Real Life Brandon Taylor

November
The Mother Hunt Rex Stout
Ghosts Dolly Alderton
The Home-Maker Dorothy Canfield Fisher
The Street Ann Petry
The Morning Gift Eva Ibbotson

December 2020
A Thousand Moons Sebastian Berry
The Startup Wife Tahmima Anam
The Vanishing Half Brit Bennett
How to Stay Sane in an Age of Division Elif Shafak

*My books of the year (fiction and nonfiction)

2019

January
The Mars Room Rachel Kushner
My Sister, the Serial Killer Oyinkan Braithwaite
Ma’am Darling: 99 Glimpses of Princess Margaret Craig Brown
Liar Ayelet Gundar-Goshen
Less Andrew Sean Greer
War and Peace Leo Tolstoy (continued)

February
How to Own the Room Viv Groskop
The Doll Factory Elizabeth Macneal
The Cut Out Girl Bart van Es
The Gifted, the Talented and Me Will Sutcliffe
War and Peace Leo Tolstoy (continued)

March
Late in the Day Tessa Hadley
The Cleaner of Chartres Salley Vickers
War and Peace Leo Tolstoy (finished!)

April
Sweet Sorrow David Nicholls
The Familiars Stacey Halls
Pillars of the Earth Ken Follett
May
The Mercies Kiran Millwood Hargraves (published Jan 2020)
Ghost Wall Sarah Moss
Two Girls Down Louisa Luna
The Carer Deborah Moggach
Holy Disorders Edmund Crispin

June
Ordinary People Diana Evans
The Dutch House Ann Patchett
The Tenant of Wildfell Hall Anne Bronte (reread)
Miss Garnet’s Angel Salley Vickers (reread)
Glass Town Isabel Greenberg

July
American Dirt Jeanine Cummins
How to Change Your Mind Michael Pollan
A Month in the Country J.L. Carr
Venice Jan Morris
The White Road Edmund de Waal

August
Fleishman Is in Trouble Taffy Brodesser-Akner
Kindred Octavia Butler
Another Fine Mess Tim Moore
Three Women Lisa Taddeo
Flaubert’s Parrot Julian Barnes

September
The Nickel Boys Colson Whitehead
The Testaments Margaret Atwood
Mothership Francesca Segal
The Secret Commonwealth Philip Pullman

October
Notes to Self Emilie Pine
The Water Cure Sophie Mackintosh
Hamnet Maggie O’Farrell
The Country Girls Edna O’Brien

November
Midnight’s Children Salman Rushdie (reread)
The Wych Elm Tana French
On Earth We’re Briefly Gorgeous Ocean Vuong

December
Olive, Again Elizabeth Strout*
Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead Olga Tokarczuk
And Then There Were None Agatha Christie
Girl Edna O’Brien
My Dark Vanessa Kate Elizabeth Russell

2018

JANUARY
While You Sleep Stephanie Merritt
The Explorer Katherine Rundell
Lullaby Leila Slimani
The Circle Dave Eggers

FEBRUARY
The Girl in the Window AJ Finn
Midwinter Break Bernard MacLaverty
Prairie Fires: The American Dreams of Laura Ingalls Wilder Caroline Fraser
Anything Is Possible Elizabeth Strout

MARCH
Force of Nature Jane Harper
Educated Tara Westover
This Is London Ben Judah
Kintu Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi

APRIL
*The Western Wind Samantha Harvey
The Hog's Back Mystery Freeman Wills Crofts
Fun Home Alison Bechdel
Property Lionel Shriver
The Mermaid and Mrs Hancock Imogen Hermes Gowar

MAY
Logical Family Armistead Maupin
The Language of Kindness Christie Watson
Sing, Unburied, Sing Jesmyn Ward
Tangerine Christine Mangan

JUNE
When I Hit You Meena Kandasamy
The Weather in the Streets Rosamund Lehmann
The Binding Bridget Collins
Small Country Gael Faye

JULY
*The Salt Path Raynor Winn
The Overstory Richard Powers
Will Self and I Matthew De Abaitua

AUGUST
Sabrina Nick Drnaso
West Carys Davies
House of Glass  Susan Fletcher
Snap  Belinda Bauer

SEPTEMBER
Hold  Michael Donkor
Washington Black  Esi Edugyan
All Among the Barley  Melissa Harrison

OCTOBER
Transcription  Kate Atkinson
Milkman  Anna Burns
A Different Drummer  William Melvin Kelley

NOVEMBER
There There  Tommy Orange
Convenience Store Woman  Sayaka Murata
Threads of Life  Clare Hunter
War and Peace  Leo Tolstoy

DECEMBER
War and Peace  Leo Tolstoy (continued)
Close to the Edge  Toby Faber
Becoming  Michelle Obama
Turbulence  David Szaly

*My books of the year

2017

JANUARY
Thank Heaven Fasting  EM Delafield
The Nine Tailors  Dorothy L. Sayers (reread)
My Name Is Leon  Kit de Waal
Lolly Willowes  Sylvia Townsend Warner
Born to Run  Bruce Springsteen
Amnesia  Michael Ridpath

FEBRUARY
Testament of Youth  Vera Brittain
The Awkward Age  Francesca Segal
Homegoing  Yaa Gyasi
Waking Lions  Ayelet Gundar-Goshen

MARCH
The End of Eddy  Edouard Louis
Idaho  Emily Ruskovich
Mothering Sunday  Graham Swift
Golden Hill  Francis Spufford
*my book of the year
**my runner-up book of the year

2016

JANUARY
Shirley Charlotte Bronte
Different Class Joanne Harris
Exposure Helen Dunmore

FEBRUARY
The Loney Andrew Michael Hurley
The Bronte Myth Lucasta Miller
Vinegar Girl Anne Tyler

MARCH
The Lie Tree Frances Hardinge
The Mandibles Lionel Shriver
My Name Is Lucy Barton Elizabeth Strout
This Must Be the Place Maggie O’Farrell

APRIL
The Year of the Runaways Sunjeev Sahota
At Hawthorne Time Melissa Harrison
News of the World Paulette Jiles
The Butcher’s Hook Janet Ellis

MAY
The Trouble with Goats and Sheep Joanna Cannon
Eligible Curtis Sittenfeld
Unexploded Alison Macleod
The Gustav Sonata Rose Tremain
Preparation for the Next Life Atticus Lish

JUNE
The Green Road Anne Enright
Madonna in a Fur Coat Sabahattin Ali
The Essex Serpent Sarah Perry
Sister Sebastian’s Library Phil Whitaker

JULY
Anatomy of a Soldier Harry Parker
1599: A Year in the Life of William Shakespeare James Shapiro
The Outrun Amy Liptrot

AUGUST
Notes from No Man’s Land Eula Biss
The Muse Jessie Burton
Enemy Women Paulette Jiles (reread)

SEPTEMBER
The Girl in the Red Coat Kate Hamer
Nutshell Ian McEwan
The Wonder Emma Donoghue
Signs Preceding the End of the World Yuri Herrera

OCTOBER
Take Courage: Anne Bronte and the Art of Life Samantha Ellis
Hag-Seed Margaret Atwood
Commonwealth Ann Patchett
The Secret Garden Frances Hodgson Burnett

NOVEMBER
The Underground Railroad Colson Whitehead
The Vegetarian Han Kang
The Optician of Lampedusa Emma Jane Kirby*
Days Without End Sebastian Berry**

DECEMBER
The Sellout Paul Beatty
Rhapsody in Green Charlotte Mendelson
Greenbanks Dorothy Whipple
Hostages to Fortune Elizabeth Cambridge

*My nonfiction book of the year
**My novel of the year

2015

JANUARY
H Is for Hawk Helen Macdonald
The Professor Charlotte Bronte
Jane Eyre Charlotte Bronte (reread)

FEBRUARY
Prayers for the Stolen Jennifer Clement
My Brilliant Friend Elena Ferrante
Villette Charlotte Bronte
Gilead Marilyn Robinson

MARCH
Agnes Grey Anne Bronte
The Tenant of Wildfell Hall Anne Bronte
Wuthering Heights Emily Bronte (reread)

APRIL
All My Puny Sorrows Miriam Toews
Re Jane Patricia Park
How to Be a Heroine Samantha Ellis

MAY
Neither Here Nor There Miriam Drori
Nora Webster Colm Toibin
The Story of a New Name Elena Ferrante
The Life of Charlotte Bronte Elizabeth Gaskell
JUNE
How to Be Both Ali Smith
Outline Rachel Cusk
The Good Liar Nicholas Searle
Wonder R.J. Palacio

JULY
Twin of Blackness: A Memoir Clifford Thompson
To Kill a Mockingbird Harper Lee (reread)
Go Set a Watchman Harper Lee
Do No Harm Henry Marsh
The Ballad of Peckham Rye Muriel Spark
Canada Richard Ford
Pride and Prejudice Jane Austen (reread)

AUGUST
All the Light We Cannot See Anthony Doerr
The Bronte Cabinet Deborah Lutz
A God in Ruins Kate Atkinson
The Girl on the Train Paula Hawkins

SEPTEMBER
The Red Notebook Antoine Laurain
A Little Life Hanna Yanigihara
The Driver's Seat Muriel Spark
The Gap of Time Jeanette Winterson

OCTOBER
Suite Francaise Irene Nemirovsky (reread)
South Sea Tales Robert Louis Stevenson
The Versions of Us Laura Barnett

NOVEMBER
The Story of the Lost Child Elena Ferrante
All the Birds, Singing Evie Wyld
Grief Is the Thing with Feathers Max Porter
My Name Is Shylock Howard Jacobson
The Road to Little Dribbling Bill Bryson

DECEMBER
Charlotte Bronte: A Life Claire Harman
Jane Steele Lyndsay Faye
Sisterland Curtis Sittenfeld

2014

JANUARY
The Luminaries Eleanor Catton
Longbourn Jo Baker
The Invention of Wings Sue Monk Kidd
FEBRUARY
Happenstance Carol Shields
Skios Michael Frayn
The Bees Laline Paull
Alias Grace Margaret Atwood (reread)

MARCH
The Night Guest Fiona McFarlane
Mrs Hemingway Naomi Wood
Bark Lorrie Moore
The Woman Upstairs Claire Messud

APRIL
We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves Karen Joy Fowler
The Professor of Poetry Grace McCleen
Touched Joanna Briscoe
The Pinecone Jenny Uglow

MAY
The Town Conrad Richter
The Fault in Our Stars John Green
American Rust Philipp Meyer
Me Before You Jojo Moyes
Mother’s Milk Edward St. Aubyn

JUNE
Elizabeth Is Missing Emma Healey
My Salinger Year Joanna Rakoff
Americanah Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
How to Be a Woman Caitlin Moran

JULY
Her Harriet Lane
The Miniaturist Jessie Burton
Us David Nicholls

AUGUST
The Paying Guests Sarah Waters
All True Not a Lie in It Alix Hawley
Wuthering Heights Emily Bronte (reread)
Othello William Shakespeare (reread)

SEPTEMBER
A Girl in Winter Philip Larkin
Neverhome Laird Hunt
Swimming Studies Leanne Shapton
The Rosie Effect Graeme Simson

OCTOBER
The Taxidermist’s Daughter Kate Mosse
Station Eleven Emily John St Mandel
The Secret Place Tana French
On the Banks of Plum Creek Laura Ingalls Wilder (reread)
By the Shores of Silver Lake Laura Ingalls Wilder (reread)
NOVEMBER
The Long Winter Laura Ingalls Wilder (reread)
Little Town on the Prairie Laura Ingalls Wilder (reread)
These Happy Golden Years Laura Ingalls Wilder (reread)
The First Four Years Laura Ingalls Wilder (reread)
Prairie Girl (autobiography) Laura Ingalls Wilder
Charlotte Bronte: A Passionate Life Lyndall Gordon

DECEMBER
Being Mortal Atul Gawande
To Rise Again at a Decent Hour Joshua Ferris
Selected Letters of Charlotte Bronte (going through a CB kick)
A Spool of Blue Thread Anne Tyler

2013
The Innocents Francesca Segal
Bring Up the Bodies Hilary Mantel
The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry Rachel Joyce
Flight Behaviour Barbara Kingsolver
Where’d You Go, Bernadette Maria Semple
The White Princess Philippa Gregory
Life After Life Kate Atkinson
The Road Home Rose Tremain (reread)
Apple Tree Yard Louise Doughty
May We Be Forgiven AM Homes
The Son Philipp Meyer
Stoner John Williams
The Interestings Meg Wolitzer
Gossip from the Forest Sara Maitland
The Goldfinch Donna Tartt
City of Thieves David Benioff
Burial Rites Hannah Kent
Sedition Katharine Grant
Sense and Sensibility Joanna Trollope
The Silent Wife ASA Harrison

2012

JANUARY
The Art of Fielding Chad Harbach
The Land of Decoration Grace Mcleean
Capital John Lanchester
The Old Curiosity Shop Charles Dickens
FEBRUARY
The Radleys Matt Haig
Alys, Always Harriet Lane

MARCH
There But For The Ali Smith
Await Your Reply Dan Chaon
Pure Andrew Miller

APRIL
How I Live Now Meg Rosoff (reread)
Alone in Berlin Hans Fallada
The Lifeboat Charlotte Rogan
Anatomy of a Disappearance Hisham Matar

MAY
To the End of the Land David Grossman

JUNE
Foreign Bodies Cynthia Ozick

JULY
The Age of Miracles Karen Thompson Walker
Wuthering Heights Emily Bronte (reread)
The Colour of Milk Nell Leyshon

AUGUST
Run Ann Patchett
The Book in the Viola (US: The House at Tyneford) Natasha Solomons
A Monster Calls Patrick Ness
Important Artifacts and Personal Property from the Collection of Lenore Doolan and Harold Morris Leanne Shapton
The Hunger Games Suzanne Collins
The Dinner Herman Koch

SEPTEMBER
Mrs. Robinson’s Disgrace Kate Summerscale
Merival Rose Tremain
Swimming Home Deborah Levy

OCTOBER
The Yellow Birds Kevin Powers
The Shock of the Fall Nathan Filer
Big Brother Lionel Shriver

NOVEMBER
The Tree: A Natural History Colin Tudge
The Go-Between L.P. Hartley
Tigers in Red Weather Liza Klaussmann
The Sound of Things Falling Juan Gabriel Vasquez

DECEMBER
Motherland William Nicholson
The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie Muriel Spark
Instructions for a Heatwave Maggie O'Farrell
Gone Girl Gillian Flynn
Behind the Beautiful Forevers Katherine Boo

2011

JANUARY
Until May I will be reading books as a judge for the Orange Prize. There are too many to list here.

MAY
Huckleberry Finn (reread) Mark Twain

JUNE
A Fine Balance by Rohinton Mistry
The Wilder Life by Wendy McClure (a must-read for Laura Ingalls Wilder fans!)
In-Flight Entertainment (short stories) by Helen Simpson

JULY
The Reluctant Fundamentalist by Mohsin Hamid
Dissolution by C.J. Sansom

AUGUST
The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet by David Mitchell
Wench by Doren Valdez-Perkins
Gillespie and I by Jane Harris (excellent!)

SEPTEMBER
The Submission by Amy Waldman
The Sisters Brothers by Patrick de Witt
The Night Circus by Erin Morgenstern

OCTOBER
Tony and Susan by Austin Wright
The Sense of an Ending by Julian Barnes
The Butterfly Isles by Patrick Barkham

NOVEMBER
State of Wonder by Ann Patchett

DECEMBER
Why Be Happy When You Can Be Normal? by Jeanette Winterson
Charles Dickens: A Life by Claire Tomalin
The House of Silk by Anthony Horowitz

2010

JANUARY
The Girl Who Played with Fire - Stieg Larsson
Song Yet Sung - James McBride
The Help - Kathryn Stockett
People of the Book - Geraldine Brooks

FEBRUARY
The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest by Stieg Larsson
Beloved by Toni Morrison (reread)
Both Ways Is the Only Way I Want It by Maile Meloy

MARCH
Let the Great World Spin by Colum McCann
The Rehearsal by Eleanor Catton

APRIL
The Book Thief by Markus Zusak
Solar by Ian McEwan
The Double Comfort Safari Club by Alexander McCall Smith
Uncle Tom’s Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe (reread)

2009

JANUARY
The Suspicions of Mr Whicher by Kate Summerscale
a bit of Don Quixote
(my New Year’s resolution is to read it throughout the year, and finish it)
Emergency Sex (and Other Desperate Measures): True Stories from a War Zone Heidi Postlewait, Kenneth Cain and Andrew Thomson

FEBRUARY
Believe Me by Nina Killham
Coal Black Horse by Robert Olmstead
Couples by John Updike

MARCH
The Secret Scripture by Sebastian Barry
The Post Office Girl by Stefan Sweig

APRIL
One Big Damn Puzzler by John Harding
Girl in a Blue Dress by Gaynor Arnold
A Mercy by Toni Morrison

MAY
The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo by Stig Larssen
The Little Stranger by Sarah Waters
Hearts and Minds by Amanda Craig

JUNE
Molly Fox’s Birthday by Deirdre Madden
March by Geraldine Brooks
JULY
Her Fearful Symmetry by Audrey Niffenegger
Listening Below the Noise by Anne Leclaire
The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls

AUGUST
The Children’s Book by A.S. Byatt
The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows
Small Wars by Sadie Jones
One Day by David Nicholls
The Solitude of Prime Numbers by Paolo Giordano
A Book of Silence by Sara Maitland

SEPTEMBER
Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Strout
Dirt Music by Tim Winton
A Gate at the Stairs by Lorrie Moore
Deaf Sentence by David Lodge

OCTOBER
Wolf Hall by Hilary Mantel

NOVEMBER
Adrian Mole: The Prostrate Years by Sue Townsend
The Hare and the Tortoise by Elizabeth Jenkins
Animals in Translation by Temple Grandin
Any Human Heart by William Boyd
The 10pm Question by Kate de Goldi

DECEMBER
When Will There Be Good News? by Kate Atkinson
Legend of a Suicide by David Vann
Brooklyn by Colm Toibin
The Hand That First Held Mine by Maggie O’Farrell
The Elephant Keeper by Christopher Nicholson

2008

JANUARY
Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe
The Behaviour of Moths by Poppy Adams
(in US as The Sister)
The Return of the Native by Thomas Hardy

FEBRUARY
The Outcast by Sadie Jones

MARCH
No record
APRIL
_Revolutionary Road_ by Richard Yates
_Holes_ by Louis Sachar
_Blue Shoes and Happiness_ by Alexander McCall Smith
_Loving Frank_ by Nancy Horan
first eighth of _Don Quixote_ by Miguel de Cervantes

MAY
_Once upon a Time in the North_ by Philip Pullman
_Dry Store Room No. 1: The Secret Life of the Natural History Museum_ by Richard Fortey
_The Spare Room_ by Nancy Garner
_A Thousand Splendid Suns_ by Khaled Hosseini

JUNE
_The Custom of the Country_ by Edith Wharton
_The Private Lives of Pippa Lee_ by Rebecca Miller
_No Great Mischief_ by Alistair MacLeod

JULY
_One Good Turn_ by Kate Atkinson
_When We Were Romans_ by Matthew Kneale
_English_ by Wang Gang
_Fat Girl_ by Judith Moore
_Horseman, Pass By_ by Larry McMurtry

AUGUST
_The People on Privilege Hill_ by Jane Gardam
_Eve Green_ by Susan Fletcher
_Angel_ by Elizabeth Taylor
_Away_ by Amy Bloom

SEPTEMBER
_Netherland_ by Joseph O’Neill
_How to Be Good_ by Nick Hornby

OCTOBER
_Emma_ by Jane Austen (reread)
_The White Bone_ by Barbara Gowdy

NOVEMBER
_A Pair of Blue Eyes_ by Thomas Hardy
_I, Coriander_ by Sally Gardner

DECEMBER
_Annie’s Box: Charles Darwin, His Daughter and Human Evolution_ by Randal Keynes (an excellent introduction to Darwin, esp if you struggle with the science; it talks about Darwin via his relationship with his daughter, who died age 10)
_The Believers_ by Zoe Heller
_Nothing to Be Frightened Of_ by Julian Barnes
_Shakespeare_ by Bill Bryson
2007

JANUARY
Oscar and Lucinda by Peter Carey
Other Sorrows, Other Joys by Janet Warner

FEBRUARY
Suite Francaise by Irene Nemirovsky
Father and Son by Edmund Gosse
Just in Case by Meg Rosoff

MARCH
second half of David Copperfield by Charles Dickens
The Monsters of Templeton by Lauren Groff
The Ballad of Dorothy Wordsworth by Frances Wilson

APRIL
The Secret History of Lost Things by Sheridan Hay
The Post-Birthday World by Lionel Shriver
The Tent by Margaret Atwood
On Chesil Beach by Ian McEwan

MAY
The Golden Compass (aka Northern Lights) by Philip Pullman (reread)
The Subtle Knife by Philip Pullman (reread)
A Concise Chinese-English Dictionary for Lovers by Xiaolu Guo
A Long Way Gone by Ishmael Beah
The Spellman Files by Lisa Lutz
In the Dark by Deborah Moggach
I was on a book tour of the US, and had a lot of time to read in airports!

JUNE
Half of a Yellow Sun by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
The Lollipop Shoes by Joanne Harris
Michael Tolliver Lives by Armistead Maupin
The Headless Cupid by Zilpha Keatley Snyder (reread; a favorite book and author from my childhood)

JULY
The Road Home by Rose Tremain
The French Lieutenant's Woman by John Fowles
The Tenderness of Wolves by Stef Penney

AUGUST
Persuasion by Jane Austen (reread)
Alberta and Jacob by Cora Sandel
Alberta and Freedom by Cora Sandel
Annette Vallon by James Tipton

SEPTEMBER
Astrid and Veronika by Linda Olsson
Mr. Pip by Lloyd Jones
Alberta Alone by Cora Sandel
OCTOBER
Nursery Crimes by Ayelet Waldman
The Year of the Hare by Arto Paasilinna
Far from the Madding Crowd by Thomas Hardy
The Frozen Thames by Helen Humphreys
Sepulchre by Kate Mosse

NOVEMBER
The Journal of Dora Damage by Belinda Starling
(Funny how some months I read several books, others just one. Maybe I’m slowing down because it’s getting colder - does one’s reading metabolism change the way our physical metabolism does?)

DECEMBER
Restless by William Boyd
Case Histories by Kate Atkinson
The Kiwi’s Egg: Charles Darwin and Natural Selection by David Quammen
The Map That Changed the World by Simon Winchester

2006

JANUARY
On Beauty by Zadie Smith
Constitutional (short stories) by Helen Simpson
A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian by Marina Lewycka
The Lambs of London by Peter Ackroyd

FEBRUARY
The Night Watch by Sarah Waters
Tess of the D’Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy
Close Range (short stories) by Annie Proulx
Rapture (poems) by Carol Ann Duffy

MARCH
The Hobbit by JRR Tolkien (reread, aloud with my son)
The Mayor of Casterbridge by Thomas Hardy
Paradise Lost by John Milton

APRIL
Spies by Michael Frayn
Disobedience by Naomi Alderman
The Dark Room by Rachel Seiffert
Stuart: A Life Backwards by Alexander Masters

MAY
So Many Ways to Begin by Jon McGregor
Digging to America by Anne Tyler
Vernon God Little by D.B.C. Pierre

JUNE
Beyond Black by Hilary Mantel
Touching the Rock: An Experience of Blindness by John T. Hul
JULY
A Factory of Cunning by Philippa Stockley
Theft by Peter Carey

AUGUST
Gentlemen and Players by Joanne Harris
Special Topics in Calamity Physics by Marisha Pessl
Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro
On Writing by Stephen King

SEPTEMBER
The Talented Mr. Ripley by Patricia Highsmith
Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery (reread – comfort read!)
half of Untold Stories by Alan Bennett

OCTOBER
A Vicious Circle by Amanda Craig
The Thirteenth Tale by Diane Setterfield
The Vanishing of Esme Lennox by Maggie O’Farrell

NOVEMBER
Thomas Hardy: The Time-Torn Man (biography) by Claire Tomalin
When We Were Bad (not yet published) by Charlotte Mendelson

DECEMBER
Hannibal Rising by Thomas Harris (had to read it for a cultural radio program)
The Accidental by Ali Smith
The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

2005

JANUARY
I am currently judging a literary prize and so won’t list the books I am reading during these two months.

FEBRUARY
Small Island by Andrea Levy
The Men in My Country by Marilyn Abildskov
The Other Boleyn Girl by Philippa Gregory
The Sunday Philosophy Club by Alexander McCall Smith
In the Company of Cheerful Ladies by Alexander McCall Smith

MARCH
Sleep with Me by Joanna Briscoe
Wolf Brother by Michelle Paver
The Price of Water in Finistere by Bodil Malmsten
Saturday by Ian McEwan
London Born by Sidney Day
APRIL
The Time Traveler’s Wife by Audrey Niffenegger
Under the Skin by Michel Faber
Prodigal Summer by Barbara Kingsolver

MAY
The Widow of the South by Robert Hicks
Labyrinth by Kate Mosse

JUNE
Mounting Desire by Nina Killham
Nickel and Dimed by Barbara Ehrenreich

JULY
Cloud Atlas by David Mitchell
The Wonder Spot by Melissa Banks
Bird by Bird by Anne Lamott

AUGUST
Havoc in Its Third Year by Ronan Bennett
The History of Love by Nicole Krauss

SEPTEMBER
Third Girl on the Left by Martha Southgate
Larry’s Party by Carol Shields
Reading, Writing, and Leaving Home by Lynne Freed
Bookmark Now, edited by Kevin Smokler

OCTOBER
The Historian by Elizabeth Kostova
Restoration by Rose Tremain (reread)
Our Hidden Lives: The Everyday Diaries of a Forgotten Britain by Simon Garfield

NOVEMBER
The Great Fire by Shirley Hazzard
The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter by Carson McCullers (reread)

DECEMBER
We Need to Talk About Kevin by Lionel Shriver (Not for the faint-hearted!)
The Plot Against America by Philip Roth
Arthur and George by Julian Barnes
Tattycoram by Audrey Thomas

2004

JANUARY
Dispatches from a Not-So-Perfect Life by Faulkner Fox
Touching the Void by Joe Simpson

FEBRUARY
L’Affaire by Diane Johnson
Negotiating with the Dead by Margaret Atwood
Eats, Shoots and Leaves by Lynne Truss
MARCH
What Was She Thinking? Notes on a Scandal by Zoe Heller
To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee (reread)
Blake by Peter Ackroyd

APRIL
The Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown
Jarhead by Anthony Swofford
These Foolish Things by Deborah Moggach

MAY
So Many Books by Gabriel Zaid
Stradivarius by Toby Faber
The Sewing Circles of Herat by Christina Lamb
Venus as a Boy by Luke Sutherland

JUNE
According to Queeney by Beryl Bainbridge
Something Might Happen by Julie Myerson
The Birth of Venus by Sarah Dunant

JULY
Candyfreak by Steve Almond
Northanger Abbey by Jane Austen
The Jane Austen Book Club by Karen Jay Fowler
Passion by Jude Morgan

AUGUST
How I Live Now by Meg Rosoff
The Shadow of the Wind by Carlos Ruiz Zafon

SEPTEMBER
A Few Short Notes on Tropical Butterflies (short stories) by John Murray
Daughters of Jerusalem by Charlotte Mendelson

OCTOBER
Chasing Vermeer by Blue Balliett

NOVEMBER
Jane Austen by Claire Tomalin
A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle (reread)
Lionboy by Zizou Corder
The Sad Truth about Happiness by Anne Giardin

DECEMBER
I am currently judging a literary prize and so won’t list the books I am reading during this month.
2003

JANUARY
The Gift by Danielle Steele (er, just checking out the competition!)
The Accomplice by Kathryn Heyman
English Passengers by Matthew Kneale

FEBRUARY
The Nautical Chart by Arturo Perez-Reverte
Bel Canto by Ann Patchett
Kitchen Confidential by Anthony Bourdain

MARCH
The Blind Assassin by Margaret Atwood
The Gift by David Flusfeder

APRIL
The Bitch in the House, edited by Cathy Hanauer (most likely to appeal to women 30-50; everyone else will be irritated)
Ragtime by E.L. Doctorow (reread)

MAY
Come Home, Timoleon Vieta by Dan Rhodes
Over Sea, Under Stone by Susan Cooper
(Reread - this was a favorite during my childhood, and is set in Cornwall, where I was just on vacation)
Oryx and Crake by Margaret Atwood

JUNE
The Colour by Rose Tremain
The Devil Wears Prada by Lauren Weisberger
The Summer Book by Tove Jannson
The Dark is Rising by Susan Cooper (reread, for nostalgia; it’s kind of overwrought but I still love it)

JULY
The Voices by Susan Elderkin
Property by Valerie Martin
Brick Lane by Monica Ali
Mr Golightly’s Holiday by Salley Vickers

AUGUST
The Preservationist by Dave Maine
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon
Old Man Goya by Julia Blackburn
Tears of the Giraffe by Alexander McCall Smith

SEPTEMBER
Starter for Ten by David Nicholls
Morality for Beautiful Girls by Alexander McCall Smith
Caravaggio (a novel) by Christopher Peachment
OCTOBER
If Nobody Speaks of Remarkable Things by Jon McGregor
The Flanders Panel by Arturo Perez-Reverte
The Kalahari School of Typing for Men by Alexander McCall Smith

NOVEMBER
The Human Stain by Philip Roth
Astonishing splashes of Colour by Clare Morall
The Full Cupboard of Life by Alexander McCall Smith

DECEMBER
The Fortress of Solitude by Jonathan Lethem
Love in the Time of Cholera by Gabriel Garcia Marquez
Don’t Let’s Go to the Dogs Tonight by Alexandra Fuller

2002

MARCH
Fingersmith by Sarah Waters
The Orchard on Fire by Shena Mackay
Little Boy Lost by Marganita Lasky
Interpreter of Maladies by Jhumpa Lahiri
The Bad Beginning by Lemony Snicket
Northern Lights (aka The Golden Compass) by Philip Pullman

APRIL
The Subtle Knife by Philip Pullman
The Amber Spyglass by Philip Pullman

MAY
The House of Mirth by Edith Wharton
Driving over Lemons by Chris Stewart
Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress by Dai Sijie

JUNE
The Nanny Diaries by Emma McLaughlin and Nicola Kraus
The Piano Tuner by Daniel Mason

JULY
Everything Is Illuminated by Jonathan Safran Foer
Disturbance of the Inner Ear by Joyce Hackett
Daughter of Venice by Donna Jo Napoli
A Parrot in the Pepper Tree by Chris Stewart

AUGUST
Affinity by Sarah Waters
I Don’t Know How She Does It by Allison Pearson
We Made a Garden by Margery Fish

SEPTEMBER
Enemy Women by Paulette Jiles
About the Author by John Colapinto
Embers by Sandor Marai

OCTOBER
Bad Blood by Lorna Sage
The Children Who Lived in a Barn by Eleanor Graham
The Necropolis Railway by Andrew Martin

NOVEMBER
The Little Friend by Donna Tartt
Life of Pi by Yann Martell

DECEMBER
Mansfield Park by Jane Austen
The No.1 Ladies' Detective Agency by Alexander McCall Smith
Under the Eagle's Shadow by Mark Hertsgaard
The Age of Innocence by Edith Wharton