

New Fiction November 2007

Author	Title	Annotation
Allan, Clare	Poppy Shakespeare	Explores the relationship between N., a patient in a mental institution, and Poppy Shakespeare, a new and 'sane' arrival who finds her having to feign mental illness in order to be released.
Coburn, Randy Sue	Owl Island	When her first love moves nearby, Phoebe must confront long-suppressed feelings for him while dealing with her current relationship. Naturally Whitney's unexpected arrival has reopened old wounds and a past Phoebe wishes to keep secret for myriad reasons. But an expanding band of invisible energy steadily pulls her back, and she begins to reminiscence about those early carefree days when they first met and he was "her dream Whit."
Cornwell, Bernard	The Pale Horseman	Sequel to the "Last Kingdom" Novel is based in 9th century Wessex and Cornwall. The book starts where <u>The Last Kingdom</u> left off. Lord Uhtred of Bebbanburg arrives at King Alfred of Wessex's court to proclaim his victory over the Danish Chieftain, Ubba Lothbrokson, only to find that Ealdorman Odda the Younger of Defnascir has taken the glory for himself and been named leader of Alfred's bodyguard.
Gardner, Chris	The Pursuit of Happyness	This book has been made into a motion picture starring Will Smith and his son Jaden. Gardner chronicles his long, painful, ultimately rewarding journey from inner-city Milwaukee to the pinnacle of Wall Street.
Gordimer, Nadine	Get a Life	Paul Bannerman is an ecologist, passionate about his work with his multiracial wilderness team, but when he develops thyroid cancer, the radiation treatment makes him a radioactive threat. Suddenly, at 35, the white conservationist is the leper, and he must move into an isolated wing of his parents' home. He recovers, but the metaphor of the untouchable is always there, including the quiet parallel of the family's adoption of a black foundling with AIDS born not in a manger but in a public toilet.
Grenville, Kate	The Secret River	A life of petty crime and poverty on the

		streets of 19th-century London sentences William Thornhill—along with his wife and children—to exile in the colonial outpost of Australia. But among the convicts of New South Wales there is a whisper of the possibility of freedom, away from Sydney and up the Hawkesbury River, for those who dare to stake a claim.
Helm, Michael	The Projectionist	Set in a small prairie town dying of drought, a high-school teacher is struggling with his wife leaving, a new girl-friend, and a town mystery.
Hosseini, Khaled	A Thousand Splendid Suns	<i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i> is a breathtaking story set against the volatile events of Afghanistan’s last thirty years—from the Soviet invasion to the reign of the Taliban to post-Taliban rebuilding—that puts the violence, fear, hope, and faith of this country in intimate, human terms. It is a tale of two generations of characters brought jarringly together by the tragic sweep of war, where personal lives—the struggle to survive, raise a family, find happiness—are inextricable from the history playing out around them.
Keck, David	In the Eye of Heaven	Set to inherit the lordship of a small village in his father’s duchy because the knight of that village has been bereaved of his own son, Durand must leave when the son unexpectedly turns up alive.
Lashner, William	Fatal Flaw	Lawyer Victor Carl agrees to represent a man accused of killing his fiance, even though he thinks he is guilty of the crime. Soon, however, Victor finds himself on a quest that will lead him to the horrifying discovery that nothing is as simple as it seems.
Matar, Hisham	In the country of men	On a white-hot day in Tripoli, Libya, in the summer of 1979, nine-year-old Suleiman is shopping in the market square with his mother. His father is away on business-but Suleiman is sure he has just seen him, standing across the street in a pair of dark glasses. But why isn’t he waving? And why doesn’t he come home when he knows Suleiman’s mother is falling apart?
Ondaatje, Michael	Divisadero	In 1970s California, a family is split asunder when a farmer finds that his daughter is sexually involved with a young ranch hand. Michael Ondaatje follows the lives of the

		three in the aftermath of this event, following them to the casinos of Nevada and to the French countryside. Told from multiple perspectives, the novel grows in thematic and lyrical power with each page.
Rennison, Louise	Angus, Thongs and Full-Frontal Snogging: Confessions of Georgia Nicolson	Presents the humorous journal of a year in the life of a fourteen-year-old British girl who tries to reduce the size of her nose, stop her mad cat from terrorizing the neighborhood animals, and win the love of handsome hunk Robbie.
Reynolds, Alastair	Pushing Ice	One of Saturn's ice moons suddenly leaves orbit and begins racing out of our solar system. A mining ship is the closest vessel capable of intercepting the moon and studying it. From the moment the miners agree to the assignment to become a science vessel - things get infinitely difficult.
Scudamore, James	The Amnesia Clinic	Set in Ecuador, this novel is about the secret lives of two teenage boys: Anti, an English expatriate, who is a student at the Quito International School and Fabián, a talented and attractive classmate. Fabián takes a surprise liking to Anti, and the two soon develop a language and world of their own, in which the lines between reality and fiction blur.
Stross, Charles	Accelerando	Stross explores humanity's inability to cope with molecular nanotechnology run amok in this near-future SF stand-alone.
The Falls	Oates, Joyce Carol	A haunting story of the powerful spell Niagara Falls casts upon two generations of a family, leading to tragedy, love, loss, and, ultimately, redemption
Suskind, Patrick	Perfume	Set in 18th-century France, Perfume relates the fascinating and horrifying tale of Jean-Baptiste Grenouille, a person as gifted as he was abominable. Born without a smell of his own but endowed with an extraordinary sense of smell, Grenouille becomes obsessed with procuring the perfect scent that will make him fully human. With brilliant narrative skill Susskind exposes the dark underside of the society through which Grenouille moves and explores the disquieting inner universe of this singularly possessed man.
Maharaj, Rabindranath	A Perfect Pledge	Trinidad in 1961 is a country inching toward independence but village life is hard and Narpat, a sugarcane farmer, is sickened by

		<p>the corruption he sees all around him. He scorns his neighbours as greedy, shiftless and enslaved to the rumshop and sets out to improve life for his family and contemporaries, much to their dismay. It's up to his adoring son, Jeeves, to save Narpal from his ever-wilder "futurist" plans. This novel depicts one village's struggle to find its identity in a rapidly changing world, and celebrates both the heartbreak of failed dreams and the resilience of the human spirit.</p>
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