



I NEED A GOOD BOOK!

CAROL AND ANN'S FAVORITES FROM THE 21st CENTURY, SO FAR



- 2001** C: **Bel Canto** by Ann Pachett: Themes of love and crisis as disparate characters learn that music is their only common language.
A: **Plainsong** by Kent Haruf: A heartstrong story of family and romance, tribulation and tenacity.
- 2002** C: **The Lovely Bones** by Alice Sebold: This story of seemingly unbearable tragedy is transformed into a suspenseful and touching narrative
A: **The Lovely Bones** by Alice Sebold: This story of seemingly unbearable tragedy is transformed into a suspenseful and touching narrative
- 2003** C: **The Secret Life of Bees** by Sue Monk Kidd: This is a remarkable story about divine female power
A: **Moloka'i** by Alan Brennert: Tells the story of Rachel Kalama, a seven-year-old Hawaiian girl who contracts leprosy and is quarantined.
- 2004** C: No book Carol read this year qualified to be her favorite.
A: **Gilead** by Marilynne Robinson: an intimate tale of three generations, from the Civil War to the 20th century: a story about fathers and sons
- 2005** C: **The Book Thief** by Markus Zusak: When Death has a story to tell, you listen. It is 1939. Nazi Germany.
A: **Snow Flower and the Secret Fan** by Lisa See: Lily is haunted by memories of who she once was, and of a person, long gone.
- 2006** C: **Water for Elephants** by Sara Gruen: tells of love in a world in which love's a luxury few can afford.
A: **The Road** by Cormac McCarthy: A father and his son walk alone through burned America.
- 2007** C: **Happy Birthday or Whatever** by Annie Choi: is a sidesplitting, eye-opening, and transcendent tale of coping
A: No book Ann read this year qualified to be her favorite.
- 2008** C: **The Art of Racing in the Rain** by Garth Stein: A heart-wrenching but deeply funny and ultimately uplifting story of family.
A: **The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo** by Stieg Larsson: A spellbinding amalgam of murder mystery, family saga, love story, and financial intrigue.
- 2009** C: **The Help** by Kathryn Stockett: three extraordinary women whose determination to start a movement of their own forever changes a town
A: **The Gift of Rain** by Tan Twan Eng: Philip realizes that his mentor and sensei - to whom he owes absolute loyalty - is a Japanese spy.
- 2010** C: **The Warmth of Other Suns** by Isabel Wilkerson: chronicles the decades-long migration of black citizens who fled the South.
A: **The Tie That Binds** by Kent Haruf: is a powerfully eloquent tribute to the demands of rural America and of the tenacity of the human spirit.
- 2011** C: **The Language of Flowers** by Vanessa Diffenbaugh: Victoria realizes she has a gift for helping others through the flowers she chooses for them.
A: **The Language of Flowers** by Vanessa Diffenbaugh: Victoria realizes she has a gift for helping others through the flowers she chooses for them.
- 2012** C: **Where'd You Go, Bernadette** by Maria Semple: A misanthropic matriarch leaves her eccentric family in crisis when she mysteriously disappears
A: **The Garden of Evening Mists** by Tan Twan Eng: [A] strong quiet novel [of] eloquent mystery.
- 2013** C: **Ordinary Grace** by William Kent Krueger: is a brilliantly moving account of a boy standing at the door of his young manhood.
A: **Ordinary Grace** by William Kent Krueger: is a brilliantly moving account of a boy standing at the door of his young manhood.
- 2014** C: **Everything I Never Told You** by Celeste Ng: "Lydia is dead. But they don't know this yet."
A: **A Man Called Ove** by Fredrik Backman: is about the angry old man next door and an exploration of the profound impact one life has on others.
- 2015** C: **The Nightingale** by Kristin Hannah: is an epic panorama of World War II and an intimate part of history seldom seen: the women's war.
A: **Our Souls at Night** by Kent Haruf: Addie Moore pays an unexpected visit to a neighbor, Louis Waters. A beautiful story of second chances
- 2016** C: **Hillbilly Elegy** by J.D.Vance: is a passionate and personal analysis of a culture in crisis—that of white working-class Americans.
A: **News of the World** by Paulette Jiles: An aging itinerant news reader agrees to transport a young captive of the Kiowa back to her people

- 2017 C: Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman:** Is about the importance of friendship and human connection.
A: The Ninth Hour by Alice McDermott: the story of a widow, her daughter and the nuns who serve their Irish-American community in Brooklyn.
- 2018 C: An American Marriage by Tayari Jones:** A moving portrayal of the effects of a wrongful conviction on a young African-American couple
A. The Overstory by Richard Powers: is a impassioned work of activism and resistance that is also a stunning evocation of the natural world.
- 2019 C: The Testaments by Margaret Atwood:** the theocratic regime of Gilead maintains its grip on power, but there are signs it is beginning to rot.
A: The Dutch House by Ann Patchett: explores the bond between two siblings, the house of their childhood, and a past that will not let them go.

**All storylines are borrowed from Amazon.