

- January: ***My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry* by Fredrik Backman**
Elsa is seven years old and different. Her grandmother is seventy-seven years old and crazy -- as in standing-on-the-balcony-firing-paintball-guns-at-strangers crazy. She is also Elsa's best, and only, friend. At night Elsa takes refuge in her grandmother's stories where everybody is different and nobody needs to be normal. When Elsa's grandmother dies, she leaves behind a series of letters, sending Elsa on a journey that brings to life the world of her grandmother's stories. This is a story about life and death and an ode to one of the most important human rights: the right to be different.
- February: ***The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern**
This unique love story mixes elements of historical fiction, fantasy, and romance. It is the tale of a circus, named Le Cirque des Reve, that comes to town out of the blue and without warning. Within its tents, young magicians Celia and Marco compete to be the best, having done so since childhood. However, under the backdrop of their intense rivalry, a blossoming romance develops.
- March: ***Empire Falls* by Richard Russo**
Once a prosperous mill town, Empire Falls has been on a steady decline since its factories closed. Miles Roby dreams of escape, but life has conspired to keep him in the small, dying town. The diner Miles runs, like the majority of the town, is owned by Mrs. Whiting, a vindictive widow. After years of tolerating her controlling ways, Miles looks into the past to find out why she has such an interest in his life.
- April: ***Maus* by Art Spiegelman**
The Pulitzer Prize-winning graphic novel, *Maus*, tells the story of Vladek Spiegelman, a Jewish survivor of Hitler's Europe, and his son, a cartoonist coming to terms with his father's story. It is a haunting tale within a tale. Vladek's harrowing story of survival is woven into the author's account of his tortured relationship with his aging father. Against the backdrop of guilt brought by survival, they stage a normal life of small arguments and unhappy visits. This astonishing retelling of our century's grisliest news is a story of survival, not only of Vladek but of the children who survive even the survivors.

- May: ***The First Phone Call from Heaven* by Mitch Albom**
One morning in the small town of Coldwater, Michigan, the phones start ringing. The voices say they are calling from heaven. Each call is greeted differently -- some with love, some with religious zeal, some with fear. The question of whether these calls are a miracle or a hoax drives Sully Harding, a grieving single father with an inquisitive and hopeful son, to uncover the truth.
- June: ***The World's Strongest Librarian* by Josh Hanagarne**
Josh Hanagarne was six years old when he first began exhibiting symptoms of Tourette Syndrome. When he was twenty and had reached his towering height of 6'7", his tics escalated to nightmarish levels. Determined to conquer his affliction, Josh tried countless remedies, with dismal results. At last, an eccentric, autistic strongman taught Josh how to "throttle" his tics into submission using increasingly elaborate feats of strength. What started as a hobby became an entire way of life—and an effective way of managing his disorder. Today, Josh is a librarian at Salt Lake City's public library and founder of a popular blog about books and weight lifting. Funny and offbeat, *The World's Strongest Librarian* traces this unlikely hero as he attempts to overcome his disability, find love, and create a life worth living.
- July: **Best and Worst of 2017**
- August: ***Kitchens of the Great Midwest* by J. Ryan Stradal**
Eva Thorvald is a young woman with a once-in-a-generation palate who becomes the iconic chef behind the country's most coveted dinner reservation. Each chapter in this startlingly original debut tells the story of a single dish and character, at once capturing the zeitgeist of the Midwest, the rise of foodie culture, and delving into the ways food creates community and a sense of identity. By turns quirky, hilarious, and vividly sensory, *Kitchens of the Great Midwest* is an unexpected mother-daughter story about the bittersweet nature of life—its missed opportunities and its joyful surprises.

September: ***Becoming Amish* by Jeff Smith**

The true story of Bill and Tricia Moser, who were living in one of America's wealthiest communities – Grosse Pointe, Michigan – when they stepped away and began a journey that led to full immersion in a horse-and-buggy Amish life. No more BMWs. No more architectural or medical careers. Instead, the Mosers drew close with their children, built pallets for money, wore homemade clothes, and bonded with people of their Amish faith and community. In *Becoming Amish*, they offer a modern couple's honest perspective on that separate and seemingly cloistered world, a perspective that is uniquely insider and outsider at the same time.

October: ***Echo* by Pam Muñoz Ryan**

The story begins with Otto, lost and alone in a forbidden forest, where he meets three mysterious sisters and suddenly finds himself entwined in a puzzling quest involving a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica. Readers will follow the very same harmonica across the decades, landing in the hands of three different children. All the children face daunting challenges: rescuing a father, protecting a brother, holding a family together. And ultimately, these seemingly independent, solo stories converge in an orchestral crescendo.

November: ***Persuasion* by Jane Austen**

The story concerns Anne Elliot, a young Englishwoman, whose family is moving to lower their expenses and get out of debt. They rent their home to an Admiral and his wife. The wife's brother, Navy Captain Frederick Wentworth, had been engaged to Anne, and now they meet again, both single and unattached, after no contact in more than seven years. This sets the scene for many humorous encounters as well as a second, well-considered chance at love and marriage for Anne Elliot in her second "bloom".