FICTION

Heart of Darkness
Conrad Joseph
Horror awaits Marlow, a seaman assigned by an ivory company to retrieve a cargo boat and one of its employees, Mr. Kurtz, who is stranded in the heart of the Africa. Marlow’s journey becomes a struggle to maintain his own sanity as he witnesses the brutalization of the natives by white traders. Kurtz, once a genius and the company’s most successful representative, has become a savage. His compound is decorated by a row of human heads mounted on spears. The demonic mastermind, liberated from the conventions of European culture, has traded his soul to become ruler of his own horrific dominion.

The Painted Drum
Louise Erdrich
Faye Travers is called upon to appraise the estate of a family in her small New Hampshire town. She isn’t surprised to discover a forgotten cache of valuable Native American artifacts. However, she stops dead in her tracks when she finds a rare drum—a powerful yet delicate object, made from a massive moose skin stretched across a hollow of cedar, ornamented with symbols and dressed in red tassels and a beaded belt and skirt—especially since, without touching the instrument, she hears it sound.

The People in the Trees
Hanya Yanagihara
Joining an anthropologist’s 1950 expedition to discover a lost tribe on a remote Micronesian island, a young doctor investigates and proves a theory that the tribe’s considerable longevity is linked to a rare turtle, a finding that brings worldwide fame and unexpected consequence.

NONFICTION

Ritual and Religion in the Making of Humanity
Roy Rappaport
Combining adaptive and cognitive approaches, it is a comprehensive analysis of religion’s evolutionary significance, and its inextricable interdependence with language. It is also a detailed study of religion’s main component, ritual, which constructs the
conceptions that we take to be religious and therefore central in the making of humanity’s adaptation.

203.8 RAPPAPORT

Noble Savages
Napoleon A. Chagnon
The most controversial and famous anthropologist of modern time describes his seminal life-long research among the Yanomamo Indians of the Amazon basin and how his startling observations provoked admiration among many fellow anthropologists and outrage among others.

304.5 CHAGNON NAPOLEON

Coming of Age in Samoa
Margaret Mead
It details her historic journey to American Samoa, when she was just 23, where she did her first fieldwork. Here, for the first time, she presented to the public the idea that the individual experience of developmental stages could be shaped by cultural demands and expectations.

306.09963 MEAD

Sex and Temperament in Three Primitive Societies
Margaret Mead
Focusing on three tribes from New Guinea, the author advances the theory that many so-called masculine and feminine characteristics are not based on fundamental sex differences, but reflect the cultural conditioning of different societies.

599.58 MEAD MARGARET

Beating Back the Devil
Maryn McKenna
In the war against diseases, they are the special forces. They always keep a bag packed. They seldom have more than 24 hours’ notice before they are dispatched. The phone calls that tell them to head to the airport, sometimes in the middle of the night, may give them no more information than the country they are traveling to and the epidemic they will tackle when they get there. The universal human instinct is to run from an outbreak of disease. These doctors run toward it.

614.4 MCKENNA

Modernist Women Poets
The 20th century was a time of great change, particularly in the arts, but seldom explored were the female poets of that time. Robert Hass and Paul Ebenkamp have put together a comprehensive anthology of poetry featuring the poems of Gertrude Stein, Lola Ridge, and Amy Lowell.

811.508 MODERNIST

Four Corners
Kira Salak
Chronicles the author’s experiences while trying to become the second person to ever cross the island of Papua New Guinea alone.

910.4 SALAK

Lost in Shangri-La
Mitchell Zuckoff
Award-winning former Boston Globe reporter, Zuckoff unleashes the exhilarating, untold story of an extraordinary World War II rescue mission, where a plane crash in the South Pacific plunged a trio of U.S. military personnel into the jungle-clad land of New Guinea.

940.5 ZUCKOFF MITCHELL

Under the Mountain Wall
Peter Matthiessen
In the Baliem Valley in central New Guinea lived a Stone Age tribe which survived into the 20th century—the Kurelu. This title offers an account of a lost culture—the Kurelu’s timeless rhythms of work and play, of warriorschip, feasting and funerals. It illuminates the lives of the Kurelu’s, capturing a culture untouched by civilization.

995 MATTHIESSEN

Savage Harvest
Carl Hoffman
Retracing Rockefeller’s steps, journalist Carl Hoffman traveled to the jungles of New Guinea to solve a decades-old mystery and illuminate a culture transformed by years of colonial rule.

995.1 HOLMANN CARL

With a Daughter’s Eye
Mary Catherine Bateson
This writer and cultural anthropologist looks back on her extraordinary childhood with two of the world’s legendary anthropologists, Margaret Mead and Gregory Bateson. This deeply human and illuminating portrait sheds new light on her parents’ prodigious achievements and stands alone as an important contribution for scholars of Mead and Bateson.

MEAD, MARGARET

The World Until Yesterday
Jared M. Diamond
Drawing extensively from his field work in the Pacific Islands and with other people groups, Diamond gives a firsthand picture of the human past as it had been for millions of years. It’s a past that has mostly vanished, and what the differences between that past and our present modern society mean for our lives today.

305.8992 DIAMOND JARED

The Ghost Mountain Boys
James Campbell
Coveted by the Japanese for its strategic position, New Guinea became the site of one of the South Pacific’s most savage campaigns of World War II. Despite their lack of jungle training, the 32nd Division’s Ghost Mountain Boys marched 130 miles in six weeks over the Owen Stanley Mountains to the village of Buna. There, during two months of fierce combat, they achieved victory over the Japanese.

940.5426 CAMPBELL JAMES

The Call of the Wild
Jack London
100 years after the publication of his classic novel, the story of an extraordinary World War II

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305.8992 DIAMOND JARED

The Signature of All Things
Elizabeth Gilbert
Spanning much of the 18th and 19th centuries, the novel follows the fortunes of the extraordinary Whittaker family as led by the enterprising Henry Whittaker—a poor-born Englishman who makes a great fortune in the South American quinine trade, eventually becoming the richest man in Philadelphia.