

Good Reads list 2005

TITLE	AUTHOR	BLURB	
Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil	John Berendt	Journalist-style; discovering unknown town and its people; murder	MW
The Adventure of	Melvin Bragg	Non-fiction: tracing ancestry of our language	AH
Our Lady of the Forest	David Guterson	Visions of the Virgin cause a stir	AH
Blindness	Jose Saramago	Explores sightlessness	AH
Small Island	Andrea Levy	1st generation Jamaican immigrants' experience	RB
Diary of an Ordinary Woman	Margaret Forster	Fictional, but realistic	RB
Notes on a Scandal	Zoe Heller	V gripping; teacher / pupil affair, several angles	RB
Flint	Paul Eddy	Spy/thriller, well written & gripping	ME
Fear of Fifty	Erica Jong	some of us are almost there, others long past...!	ME
An Amateur Marriage	Anne Tyler		SH
A Long Way Down	Nick Hornby	4 would-be suicides decide to help each other	CD
The Great Gatsby	F. Scott Fitzgerald	American classic; millionaire socialite	SH
Havoc in its third year	Ronan Bennett	Puritans and morals, crime and punishment	CD
Alias Grace	Margaret Attwood	Really well written **	JC
The Shadow of the Wind	Carlos Ruiz Zafon	Barcelona; thriller around forgotten library.	JC
We need to talk about Kevin	Lionel Shriver	Not for feint-hearted; how kids turn into monsters	JC
Falling Angels	Tracy Chevalier	Unfulfilled Edwardian women, families, life, death	WR
The Photograph	Penelope Lively	What happens when you read other people's mail	WR
The Snow Geese	William Feines	Travel - this book part of our roving set	WR
The Siege	Helen Dunmore	Harrowing account of siege of Leningrad	WR
A Party in San Nicolo	Christobel Kent	Thriller, set in Florence	WR
Easy Silence	Angela Huth	Funny, clever observation of middle-age & marriage	AH
Saturday	Ian McEwan	Really well written weaving of various people's 24 hours	ns
Tomboy Bride	Harriet Fish Backus	The hardships suffered by Colorado silverminer's wife	FS
The Falls	Joyce Carol Oates	Tragedy at Niagra: mystery and romance	FS
The Kite Runner	Khaled Hosseini	Afghanistan**	FS
A Short History of Everything	Bill Bryson	NF: Not that short, actually!	RD
Fanny	?	Story of pre-Raphaelite model Fanny Siddel	QB
The Lambs of London	Peter Ackroyd	Fictitious - Charles & Mary Lamb, and an undiscovered Shakespeare work. Short but beautifully formed	CD
The Shortest Way to Hades	Sarah Caudwell	Genteel whodunnit with legal and mythological overtones. Witty & well plotted	CD
Spies	Michael Frayn	Elderly gent revisits childhood & painful half-memories; prejudice, social mores, personal morals & responsibility	CD
Astonishing Splashes of Colour	Clare Morrall		CF