

Suggestions for Christmas Gifts



Mysteries

Peter Robinson. Before the poison.

Stand alone novel. A Hollywood screenwriter goes to Yorkshire and becomes immersed in a murder case from the 1950s. Anyone who has read has raved about it.

Winspear, Jacqueline. Any of the Maisie Dobbs mysteries.

British mysteries set in the 1930s. Maisie, a psychologist and investigator, solves many murders in this great series. They are very strong on period details and culture with lots of brooding atmosphere.

Biography/History

Edmund de Waal. The hare with the amber eyes.

In the 1870s, de Waal's ancestor acquires 350 netsuke (Japanese ivory carvings). De Waal traces the tumultuous history of his family in the 19th and 20th century through the ownership of these exquisite carvings. If you like art history and family history, this book gets a star review.

Walter Isaacson. Steve Jobs.

A fascinating biography of the founder of Apple computers, the Ipad, the Iphone and the Ipad. Isaacson had access to 40 hours of interviews with Jobs before his death this year as well as interviews with Jobs' friends, family and rivals. Wonderful writing about one of the most important entrepreneurs of our time.

Literary fiction

Julian Barnes. Sense of an ending.

This won this year's Man Booker award. A man re-examines a past, which he thought, was uncomplicated through the journal of a school friend who died many years before. Barne's is noted for his elegant writing and sensitivity.

Ami Mackay. *Virgin cure*.

The author of the “The Birth House” finally has a new novel set in New York City in 1871. Moth, an abandoned child, lives on the outer edges of society. A sure fire candidate for a book club ...

Patrick DeWitt. *The Sisters brothers*.

Winner of Giller award for 2011. This rollicking novel is set in the United States during the 1850s and tells the story of two hired gunslingers. It is a revisionist Western written with a great deal of charm and a good story line.

Edi Edguyan. *Half-blood blues*.

Winner of the Governor General’s award this year. Edguyan writes about a black German musician arrested in 1940 by the Nazis and then was never heard of again. A brilliant study of war, prejudice and most of all jazz...

Kids Middle school



Jeff Kinney. *Diary of a wimpy kid series*.

Great graphic novel series for middle-school kids. Boys, particularly like this series about Greg Heffley. It has almost sold as many copies as Harry Potter and is very funny.

Kids Adolescent



Suzanne Collins. *The hunger games trilogy*.

Grade 7 and up. This series is absolutely addictive both for adults and young adults. Set in a futuristic world where society has been weakened by famine, war and natural disasters, it features a grim kind of contest. Realistic, sympathetic characters... Very hard to put down.