



CODY'S HOLIDAY READING LIST 1995

In an attempt to restore some semblance of sanity to the seasonal shopping madness, we have put together this eclectic list of titles for holiday reading and gift-giving. We hope this handy guide helps to make your holidays less stressful and much more pleasurable.

FICTION

BEST AMERICAN SHORT STORIES 1995. Edited by Jane Smiley. This series is a perennial best seller at Cody's. The 1995 anthology includes stories by Ellen Gilchrist, Kate Braverman, Don Delillo, Jamaica Kincaid, and many more.

THE STORIES OF VLADIMIR NABOKOV. Edited and translated by his son, Dmitri Nabokov, these stories were written over 55 years in three languages. The development of Nabokov's skill is fascinating, and the stories remind us, 18 years after his death, that we are in the hands of a magnificent original.

FIRST MAN by **Albert Camus.** Imagine a new manuscript discovered in the wreckage of the car that killed Camus 34 years ago. It has become the literary sensation of the year, a worthy sequel to *The Stranger* and *The Plague*.

UNCONSOLED by **Kazuo Ishiguro.** Universally praised for *Remains of the Day*, Ishiguro has written an entirely different kind of book—a challenging, dreamlike work of art.

RL'S DREAM by **Walter Mosley.** It's not Easy Rawlins, but it's Soupspoon Wise and Kiki Waters. Their relationship with each other, the blues of Robert Johnson, and hustling a life on the margins of the big rotten apple make up an entertaining and poignant tale.

IN THE CUT by **Susanna Moore.** The author of *Whiteness of Bones* has written a scandalous erotic thriller that everyone is talking about.

THE ISLAND OF THE DAY BEFORE by **Umberto Eco.** An engrossing and encyclopedic novel lushly illuminating an exciting period in intellectual history, when humans were dismissed from the center of all creation and countered by asserting the omnipotence of the human mind.

TO THE WEDDING by **John Berger.** An elegantly written romantic novel about a marriage of a daughter suffering with AIDS. Berger is infamous for donating his Booker Prize money to the Black Panthers. This is his best book since *Pig Earth*.

GOOD NEGRESS by **A.J. Verdelle.** A terrific debut from a young woman who begins to question the legacy of her family for the first time and starts to determine her own life. It has a quiet stature and a unique voice. Friends will pass it from hand to hand.

THE DISHWASHER by **Dannie Martin.** Maybe you thought you had no interest in reading a novel about a convicted felon in Fresno, California. In this case you would be wrong. This stunning debut novel is brilliantly written and totally engaging.

SOUTHERN EXPOSURE by **Alice Adams.** This is vintage Alice Adams, set in a Southern college town during the forties. Annie Lamott says, "...I laughed out loud a number of times, growled with jealousy at Alice's skills and stayed up all night to finish it..."

There are so many good novels this year that we can't include them all. But of those newly out in paperback, we recommend:

JUNGLEE GIRL by **Gina Kamani.** **BIRD ARTIST** by **Howard Norman.** **LONGINGS OF WOMEN** by **Marge Piercy.** **SACRED COUNTRY** by **Rose Tremain.** And last and perhaps the most romantic of all, **SIXTEEN PLEASURES** by **Robert Hellenga.**

MYSTERY and SCIENCE FICTION

HARD BOILED: AN ANTHOLOGY OF AMERICAN CRIME STORIES. Edited by Bill Pronzini and Jack Adrian. What's a hard-boiled detective story? According to Ellery Queen, "savagery, style, sophistication, sleuthing, and sex." This new anthology is the largest and most comprehensive collection in the genre.

STORMY WEATHER by **Carl Hiaasen.** In this new novel a hurricane rips through South Florida, leaving in its wake sleazy two-bit opportunists who match the storm blow for blow with disruptive violence. A fast-paced story with characters you will love and loathe.

THE LOST WORLD by **Michael Crichton.** We are just a tiny bit embarrassed to admit we were absorbed late into the night by this sequel to *Jurassic Park*. It's all here again: kids in danger, a dollop of popular science, and overall great entertainment.

BLOODCHILD AND OTHER STORIES by **Octavia Butler.** The title story won both the Hugo and Nebula awards for the best science fiction. It's visionary, multi-racial, and a very satisfying read!

NONFICTION

LIAR'S CLUB: A MEMOIR by **Mary Karr.** A most interesting book—ferociously warm, darkly funny, and smart. The title is ironic, because this is a brave and honest confessional about growing up in one of the worst towns in America in a family that is beyond dysfunctional.