

THE PAGE TURNERS 2016

May 16th – **The Orchardist** by Amanda Coplin

At the turn of the 20th century, in a rural stretch of the Pacific Northwest, a reclusive orchardist, William Talmadge, tends to apples and apricots. A gentle man, he's found solace in the sweetness of the fruit he grows and the quiet, beating heart of the land he cultivates. One day, two teenage girls appear and steal his fruit from the market. They later return to the outskirts of his orchard to see the man who gave them no chase. Feral, scared, and very pregnant, the girls take up on Talmadge's land and indulge in his deep reservoir of compassion. Coplin writes with precision and empathy crafting a debut novel about a man who disrupts the lonely harmony of an ordered life when he opens his heart and lets the world in.

June 20th – **The Rosie Project** by Graeme Simsion

Meet Don Tillman, a brilliant yet socially challenged professor of genetics, who's decided it's time he found a wife. And so, in the orderly, evidence-based manner with which Don approaches all things, he designs the Wife Project to find his perfect partner: a 16-page, scientifically valid survey to filter out the drinkers, the smokers, the late arrivers. Rosie Jarman is all these things. She also is strangely beguiling, fiery and intelligent. And while Don quickly disqualifies her as a candidate for the Wife Project, as a DNA expert Don is particularly suited to help Rosie on her own quest identifying her biological father. When an unlikely relationship develops as they collaborate on the Father Project, Don is forced to confront the spontaneous whirlwind that is Rosie – and the realization that despite your best scientific efforts you don't find love, it finds you.

July 18th – **The Girl on the Train** by Paula Hawkins

Rachel takes the same commuter train every morning. Every day she rattles down the track, flashes past a stretch of cozy suburban homes, and stops at the signal that allows her to daily watch the same couple breakfasting on their deck. She's even started to feel like she knows them. "Jess and Jason," she calls them. Their life – as she sees it – is perfect. Not unlike the life she recently lost. And then she sees something shocking. It's only a minute until the train moves on, but it's enough. Now everything's changed. Unable to keep it to herself, Rachel offers what she knows to the police, and becomes inextricably entwined in what happens next, as well as in the lives of everyone involved. Has she done more harm than good? A debut psychological thriller that will forever change the way you look at other people's lives.

August 15th – **Everything I Never Told You** by Celeste Ng

This is a debut novel about a Chinese American family living in 1970's small-town Ohio. Their middle daughter, Lydia, is the favorite child of their three. When Lydia's body is found in the local lake, the delicate balancing act that has been keeping the Lee family together tumbles into chaos. This forces them to confront the long-kept secrets that have been slowly pulling them apart. A moving story of family, history, and the meaning of home. This novel explores the divisions between cultures and the rifts within a family, uncovering the ways we struggle to understand one another.

September 19th – **The Nightingale** by Kristin Hannah

France, 1939. Bestselling author, Kristin Hannah, captures the epic panorama of WWII and illuminates an intimate part of history seldom seen: the women's war. **The Nightingale** tells the stories of two sisters, separated by years and experience, by ideals, passion and circumstance, each embarking on her own dangerous path toward survival, love and freedom in German-occupied, war-torn France. The novel celebrates the resilience of the human spirit and the durability of women.

October 17th – **Whistling Past the Graveyard** by Susan Crandall

“Whistling past the graveyard - That's what Daddy called it when you did something to keep your mind off your most worstest fear. . .”

In the summer of 1963, nine-year-old Starla Claudelle runs away from her strict grandmother's Mississippi home. Starla's destination is Nashville, where her mother went to become a famous singer, abandoning Starla when she was three. Walking a lonely country road, Starla accepts a ride from Eula, a black woman traveling alone with a white baby. Now, on the road trip that will change her life forever, Starla sees for the first time life as it really is – as she reaches for a dream of how it could one day be.

November 21st – **The Accidental Wife** by Carol Fosdick

Self-determined Jessica Brewster is wary of any emotional relationship, after being betrayed in a bet. When the beloved grandmother who raised her dies, she inherits a mysterious teacup which when rubbed transports her back to 1886 in Old Fort Laramie, switching places with her look-alike great-great-grandmother – wife to her ancestor's magnetic first husband and mother to his charming nine-year-old daughter. Can she pull off the charade and find a way back, or will conscience and her twenty-first century “slips” expose her identity? As true love – and a gypsy – derail her plans, her ancestor's brother shows up with his own dark secret. Is her future in the past? Her decision could save her life. . .and her legacy.

December 19th – **How Mrs. Claus Saved Christmas** as told to Jeff Guinn

Jeff Guinn combines solid historical fact with glorious legend to deliver a heartwarming holiday book for the whole family. It is written into 24 chapters so it would be easy to read one chapter each evening leading up to Christmas Eve! It's 1620 and Mrs. Claus's dear husband is off in the New World planting the seeds of what will become a glorious Christmas tradition. Meanwhile, Mrs. Claus has chosen to stay in England, where the first signs of a dangerous threat to Yuletide cheer are in evidence. The Puritans have gained control of Parliament and appear determined to take all the fun out of Christmas. But Mrs. Claus knows that it's time for serious action when, in 1647, a law is passed by Parliament that actually punishes anyone who celebrates Christmas. Using as its springboard the actual events of a day in 1647 when ten thousand peasants marched through the streets of Canterbury demanding their right to celebrate Christmas. This novel is rich in historical detail, adventure, and plain ol' Christmas fun.