Editors’ Picks for December —
Large Print Titles Your Readers Won’t Want to Miss!!

THREE BARGAINS
by Tania Malik
(9781410474445). This Library Journal Best Debut Fiction Pick received multiple starred reviews. In northern India, twelve-year-old Madan lives with his impoverished family. Madan’s father works for Avtaar Singh, a powerful and controlling man who owns the largest factory in town and much of the land around it. Madan’s sharp mind and hardened determination catch Avtaar Singh’s attention. When Madan’s father’s misdeeds jeopardize his sister’s life, Madan strikes his first bargain with Avtaar Singh to save her. Then a forbidden love affair has brutal consequences and Madan is forced to leave behind all that is dear to him. Booklist’s starred review calls it “a lovely and multifaceted tribute to the enduring bonds of family, blood or otherwise.” This should be highly recommended for those who enjoy dramas like Khaled Hosseini’s The Kite Runner. (Reviewers’ Choice — 12/3/2014)

NOT FADE AWAY: A Memoir of Senses Lost and Found by Rebecca Alexander with Sascha Alper (9781410474407). The author is cursed with a rare genetic disorder that will one day rob her of both sight and hearing. Bereft of self-pity, funny, and bursting with honesty, she greets every day as if it were a gift, with boundless energy, innate curiosity, and a strength of spirit that have led her to places we can’t imagine. Booklist says “Any reader struggling to support a friend or loved one through a terminal illness or degenerative disorder would do well to read this book. And everyone will benefit from Alexander’s wise and realistic instruction in intentional living, grace, and overcoming obstacles great and small.” It is a gripping story, an offering of hope and motivation, and an exquisite reminder to live each day to its fullest. Anyone who is looking for an inspirational read about overcoming seemingly insurmountable obstacles will want this title! (Biography — 12/3/2014)
Editors’ Picks for December (continued)

**TRAITOR’S BLADE**

by Sebastien de Castell (9781410474698). The King is dead, the Greatcoats have been disbanded, and Falcio Val Mond and his fellow magistrates Kest and Brasti have been reduced to working as bodyguards for a nobleman who refuses to pay them. Things could be worse, of course. Their employer could be lying dead on the floor while they are forced to watch the killer plant evidence framing them for the murder. Oh wait, that’s exactly what’s happening. Now a royal conspiracy is about to unfold in the most corrupt city in the world. A carefully orchestrated series of murders that began with the overthrow of an idealistic young king will end with the death of an orphaned girl and the ruin of everything that Falcio, Kest, and Brasti have fought for. In their starred review, *Library Journal* called it “a triumph of character, with every protagonist a fascination . . . Humor abounds, mostly in the sparkling dialog . . . A swashbuckling series launch that shows huge potential.” **For fans of Brian Sanderson and readers who like rollicking, swashbuckling, heroic fantasy stories.** *(Peer Picks — 12/17/2014)*

**A WEDDING IN PROVENCE**

by Ellen Sussman (9781410474773). What could be more idyllic than a wedding in Provence? That’s what Olivia and Brody think when they invite their closest friends and family to spend their wedding weekend with them. But when Olivia’s older daughter from her first marriage invites a man she met on the plane to join her, the delicate balance of the entire weekend is upset. Soon Olivia’s best friend, the owner of the inn who is hosting the wedding, discovers that her husband has cheated on her. Then Brody’s mother shows up without his father, who has gone into hiding. How can one choose love in the midst of chaos? Told from the point of view of Olivia and her two daughters, *A Wedding in Provence* is a moving novel about love, trust, secrets and family. *Booklist* said: “With well-drawn characters, beautiful scenery, and challenging emotional terrain, Sussman’s latest is a satisfying exploration of family and the enduring power of love.” **For readers of women’s fiction and fans of J. Courtney Sullivan.** *(Women’s Fiction — 12/17/2014)*
THE BOSTON GIRL
by Anita Diamant
(9781410475978). Addie Baum was born in 1900 to immigrant parents who were unprepared for and suspicious of America and its effect on their three daughters. Addie’s intelligence and curiosity take her to a world her parents can’t imagine — a world of short skirts, movies, celebrity culture, and new opportunities for women. Addie wants to finish high school and dreams of going to college. She wants a career and to find true love. Eighty-five-year-old Addie tells the story of her life to her twenty-two-year-old granddaughter, who has asked her “How did you get to be the woman you are today?” From the one-room tenement apartment she shared with her parents and two sisters, to the library group for girls she joins at a neighborhood settlement house, to her first, disastrous love affair, Addie recalls her adventures with compassion for the naïve girl she was and a wicked sense of humor. Booklist said “Diamant’s novel is an inspirational read that is likely to be a popular book-club choice.” For fans of historical fiction. (Basic 6 — 12/3/2014)

SMALL VICTORIES:
Spotting Improbable Moments of Grace
by Anne Lamott
(9781410473462). In her latest collection of essays, Anne Lamott offers a new message of hope that celebrates the triumph of light over the darkness in our lives. Our victories over hardship and pain may seem small, she writes, but they change us — our perceptions, our perspectives, and our lives. Lamott writes of forgiveness, restoration, and transformation, how we can turn toward love even in the most hopeless situations, how we find the joy in getting lost and our amazement in finally being found. Received starred reviews from Library Journal and Booklist. Booklist called it “a book that will delight and inspire both fans and readers new to her candid wit and wisdom.” For fans of readers who like humorous and inspirational stories about friends, families, community, and faith. (Core — 12/3/2014)
THE PARIS WINTER by Imogen Robertson (9781410477637). Maud Heighton came to Lafond’s famous Académie to paint, and to flee the constraints of her small English town. It took all her courage to escape, but Paris, she quickly realizes, is no place for a light purse. While her fellow students enjoy the dazzling decadence of the Belle Époque, Maud slips into poverty. Quietly starving, and dreading another cold Paris winter, Maud is hired by Christian Morel as companion to his beautiful young sister, Sylvie. But Sylvie, Maud discovers, is not quite the darling she seems. She has a secret addiction to opium and an ominous air of intrigue. As Maud is drawn further into the Morels’ world of elegant luxury, their secrets become hers. In its starred review, Library Journal said: “this is a sure bet and most likely the next big hit of any book discussion group.” For historical fiction fans, book discussion groups, and readers who like international settings. (Core 7 — 3/4/2015)

THE HEART HAS ITS REASONS by María Dueñas (9781410477927). A talented college professor in Madrid, Blanca Perea seems to have it all. But her world is suddenly shattered when her husband of twenty years leaves her for another woman. Questioning the life she once had and whether she truly knows herself, Blanca resolves to change her surroundings. She accepts what looks like a boring research grant in California involving an exiled Spanish writer who died decades ago. Anxious to leave her own troubled life behind, she is gradually drawn into his haunted world, with its poignant loves and unfulfilled ambitions. Exploring past and present, Booklist said The Heart Has Its Reasons “evokes 1930s and 1950s Spain through lushly detailed imagery.” For historical fiction fans and readers who like sagas. (Core 6 — 4/1/2015)

WAIT FOR SIGNS: Twelve Longmire Stories by Craig Johnson (9781410475329). Ten years ago, Craig Johnson wrote his first short story, “Old Indian Trick.” Each Christmas Eve thereafter, fans rejoiced when Johnson sent out a new short story featuring an episode in Walt’s life that doesn’t appear in the novels; over the years, many have asked why they can’t buy the stories in book form. Wait for Signs collects those beloved stories — and one entirely new story, “Petunia, Bandit Queen of the Bighorns.” Publishers Weekly said: “These brief snippets of Walt Longmire’s life underscore his solid position as one of the most memorable characters in crime fiction today.” For fans of the Walt Longmire novels and the A&E hit series Longmire, and readers of crime fiction. (Mystery — 1/7/2015)
LibraryReads “Favorite of Favorites”

LibraryReads, the nationwide library staff-picks list, announced their inaugural annual “Favorite of Favorites” list in November: the top ten titles that public library staff most enjoyed recommending in 2014. Those titles we published in large print follow (we’ve also included the longlist titles that are available):

#1 Favorite: THE STORIED LIFE OF A. J. FIKRY
by Gabrielle Zevin
(9781410468895). This New York Times bestseller was the #1 Selection in April as well as the #1 Indie Next Pick. If you go back to our April newsletter, you’ll see our exuberance about acquiring this title. We’re so glad to see it’s the #1 Favorite of the year! For readers who like heartwarming stories of redemption and fans of The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society and The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry.
(Basic — 4/4/2014)

ALL THE LIGHT WE CANNOT SEE
by Anthony Doerr (9781410470225). This New York Times bestseller received four starred reviews. We can’t keep this one in print! For readers who like WWII fiction and fans of Donna Tartt, Alice Hoffman, and Anthony Marra.
(Reviewers’ Choice — 7/2/2014)

FANGIRL by Rainbow Rowell
(9781410465276). This young adult novel and New York Times bestseller also received four starred reviews. For young adults who like coming-of-age tales about family and first love. (The Literacy Bridge — 2/5/2014)

STATION ELEVEN
by Emily St. John Mandel
(9781410474179). This science fiction title received starred reviews from Booklist, Library Journal, and Kirkus Reviews. For fans of Cormac McCarthy.
(Peer Picks — 11/19/2014)

ONE PLUS ONE by Jojo Moyes
(Core — 6/26/2014)

LANDLINE by Rainbow Rowell
(9781410470904). Rowell’s second title on the Favorites list, this New York Times bestseller was also an Indie Next Pick and a Midwest Connections Selection. For readers who like humorous women's fiction.
(Core — 7/2/2014)
LibraryReads “Favorite of Favorites” (continued)

LONGLIST TITLES

THE BEES by Laline Paull (9781410472083). This Library Journal Debut of the Month and Heartland Indie Bestseller presents the intricate world of the honeybee hive. (Core 8 — 9/10/2014)

BIG LITTLE LIES by Liane Moriarty (9781410472038). With Moriarty’s popularity rising, this title was a #1 New York Times bestseller. Another favorite author of the Thorndike team, we just can’t get enough of her books! For fans of women’s fiction and Emily Giffin and Jodi Picoult. (Core — 8/6/2014)

THE DEAD IN THEIR VAULTED ARCHES by Alan Bradley (9781410464781). This New York Times bestseller is the sixth title in the Flavia de Luce mystery series. For fans of M. C. Beaton and Elizabeth Peters. (Core — 2/5/2014)

FIVE DAYS AT MEMORIAL: Life and Death in a Storm-Ravaged Hospital by Sheri Fink (9781410466228). This tale of post-Katrina New Orleans is a New York Times bestseller, the winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award, and received four starred reviews. For fans of narrative nonfiction. (Nonfiction — 2/19/2014)

HOW THE LIGHT GETS IN by Louise Penny (9781410460158). Penny’s ninth novel featuring Chief Inspector Gamache was a #1 New York Times bestseller and received four starred reviews. For readers who like character-driven mysteries. (Mystery — 9/4/2013)


RED RISING by Pierce Brown (9781410469649). This New York Times bestseller is the first book in the Red Rising Trilogy. For fans of dystopian fiction. (Core 8 — 6/4/2014)

THE SECRET PLACE by Tana French (9781410469786). This New York Times bestseller was an LJ Editor’s Pick BEA 2014. For fans of Martha Grimes, Benjamin Black, and Charles Todd. (Mystery — 9/10/2014)
Read-Alikes

This month’s Read-alikes include:

*If your readers like William Kent Krueger and Dennis Lehane, they might like:*

**PROOF POSITIVE**
*by Archer Mayor (9781410473769).*

Hoarder Ben Kendall survived a near-fatal head wound in Vietnam, but PTSD fed on his soul forever after. So when he is found buried beneath a mountain of random machine parts, his death appears accidental, even to his cousin, Vermont’s medical examiner Beverly Hillstrom, who performs the autopsy. But intuition moves her to ask Joe Gunther, top cop in the Vermont Bureau of Investigation, to look into it, and Joe’s own intuition leads to opening an investigation. The Booklist starred review says it’s “another riveting addition to one of the finest series in crime fiction.” If you are looking for a mystery that any guy would enjoy reading — this is the one! (Crime Scene — 12/3/2014)

*If your readers like Sue Monk Kidd and Kathryn Stockett, they might like:*

**DOLLBABY**
*by Laura Lane McNeal (9781410473929).*

When Ibby Bell’s father dies unexpectedly in the summer of 1964, her mother unceremoniously deposits Ibby with her eccentric grandmother Fannie and throws in her father’s urn for good measure. Fannie’s New Orleans house is like no place Ibby has ever been — and Fannie, who has a tendency to end up in the local asylum — is like no one she has ever met. Fortunately, Fannie’s black cook, Queenie, and her smart-mouthed daughter, Dollbaby, take it upon themselves to initiate Ibby into the ways of the South, both its grand traditions and its darkest secrets. For readers who like coming-of-age tales and historical fiction. (Historical Fiction — 12/17/2014)

*If your readers like Jan Karon, Sherryl Woods, and Debbie Macomber, they might like:*

**MAGNOLIA MARKET**
*by Judy Christie (9781410474155).*

When socialite Avery Saucer and blue-collar widow Trish Manning literally run into each other at the corner of Trumpet and Vine, a less-than-friendly relationship develops. Both have lost their husbands and their livelihoods. The women decide to go into business together. With a gift for baking and making people feel welcome, they transform their Magnolia Market into a regionally famous “biscuit boutique.” As they become involved in the life of the community, they become matchmakers for the local clientele. Then Avery finds she may be the one to have found her perfect match. For readers who like fun Southern romances. (Clean Reads 3 — 12/17/2014)

Other available titles in the Trumpet and Vine series:
*SWEET OLIVE* (9781410465481)
Read-Alikes (continued)

If your readers like Sandra Cisneros, Julia Alvarez, and Junot Diaz, they might like:

**THE BOOK OF UNKNOWN AMERICANS**

by Christina Henríquez (9781410474322). Arturo and Alma Rivera have lived their whole lives in Mexico. One day, their beautiful fifteen-year-old daughter, Maribel, sustains a terrible injury, one that casts doubt on whether she’ll ever be the same. And so, leaving all they have behind, the Riveras come to America with a single dream: that in this country of great opportunity and resources, Maribel can get better. When Mayor Toro, whose family is from Panama, sees Maribel in a Dollar Tree store, it is love at first sight. It’s also the beginning of a friendship between the Rivera and Toro families, whose web of guilt and love and responsibility is at this novel’s core. *Booklist*’s starred review called it “a compassionately imagined, gently comedic, and profoundly wrenching novel of big dreams and crushing reality, courageous love and unfathomable heartbreak.” For readers who like multicultural fiction — a timely novel since immigration is currently a hot topic in our headlines. (Core 6 — 12/3/2014)

If your readers like Jo Nesbo and Jussi Adler-Olsen, they might like:

**STRANGE SHORES**

by Arnaldur Indridason (9781410474711). A young woman disappears from the frozen fjords of Iceland. In her wake she’s left behind a tempest of lies, betrayal, and revenge. Decades later, somewhere in the same wilderness, Detective Erlendur is on the hunt for the missing woman and his long-lost brother, whose disappearance in a snowstorm when they were children has colored his entire life. Slowly, the past begins to surrender its secrets. But as Erlendur uncovers a story about the limits of human endurance, he realizes that many people would prefer their crimes to stay buried. *Library Journal* called it “a satisfying mystery” and *Publishers Weekly* called it a “chilling tale.” For fans of Scandinavian crime fiction. (Thriller — 12/17/2014)

If your readers like Lori Copeland and Lauraine Snelling, they might like:

**AT BLUEBONNET LAKE**

by Amanda Cabot (9781410474063). Kate Sherwood’s world is fast-paced and challenging. The last thing she wants to do is grind to a halt at the dilapidated resort she’s visiting in the Texas Hill Country. There, Kate meets Greg. She isn’t looking for romance, but she can’t deny the sparks of attraction that fly every time she and Greg are together. For fans of inspirational romances. (Christian Romance 3 — 12/3/2014)
Top Bestsellers Releasing in December

Our top New York Times bestsellers in December follow.

THE ASSASSINATION OPTION by W. E. B. Griffin and William E. Butterworth IV
(9781410475886) Core

THE BOSTON GIRL by Anita Diamant
(9781410475978) Basic 6

BY WINTER’S LIGHT by Stephanie Laurens
(9781410474728) Romance

THE CATCH by Taylor Stevens
(9781410474797) Thriller

THE CHILDREN ACT by Ian McEwan
(9781410474643) Wheeler Hardcover 4

THE CINDERELLA MURDER by Mary Higgins Clark and Alafair Burke
(9781410471314) Basic

THE COUNTERFEIT HEIRESS by Tasha Alexander
(9781410474452) Wheeler Hardcover 6

THE DIVA WRAPS IT UP by Krista Davis
(9781410473554) Wheeler Cozy Mystery

EDGE OF ETERNITY by Ken Follett
(9781410475466) Basic

FALL OF GIANTS by Ken Follett
(9781410475473) Basic

A FRONTIER CHRISTMAS by William W. Johnstone with J. A. Johnstone
(9781410472472) Thorndike Western

 HACKER by Ted Dekker
(9781410469373) Christian Fiction

THE HUMAN AGE by Diane Ackerman
(9781410474742) Nonfiction

THE INNOVATORS by Walter Isaacson
(9781410474971) Nonfiction

THE MAGICIAN’S LAND by Lev Grossman
(9781410474438) Reviewer’s Choice

NO LIMITS by Lori Foster
(9781410471642) Romance 3

NORA BONESTEEL’S CHRISTMAS PAST by Sharyn McCrumb
(9781410471383) Clean Reads

ONLY ENCHANTING by Mary Balogh
(9781410474940) Core

PROOF POSITIVE by Archer Mayor
(9781410473769) Crime Scene

RAIN ON THE DEAD by Jack Higgins
(9781410471383) Core

ROBERT B. PARKER’S THE BRIDGE by Robert Knott
(9781410475053) Wheeler Hardcover

SAVING GRACE by Jane Green
(9781410475954) Wheeler Hardcover

SMALL VICTORIES by Anne Lamott
(9781410473462) Core
Top Bestsellers Releasing in December (continued)

SPIRIT OF STEAMBOAT by Craig Johnson (9781410472557) Mystery 3

SWAN POINT by Sherryl Woods (9781410474803) Romance

TAKE ME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS by Brenda Novak (9781410474810) Romance 4

TRAPPED AT THE ALTAR by Jane Feather (9781410474285) Basic 6

THE WHOLE CAT AND CABOODLE by Sofie Ryan (9781410473561) Wheeler Cozy Mystery

WINTER OF THE WORLD by Ken Follett (9781410475503) Basic

THIRTEEN SOLDIERS by John McCain and Mark Salter (9781410475657) Nonfiction

TOM CLANCY FULL FORCE AND EFFECT by Mark Greaney (9781410474902) Basic

ZANE’S THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PILLOW by Zane (9781410474247) African-American

Have titles you’d like to recommend? A favorite book that you would like to share with other librarians? Email them to us and we’ll include them in future newsletters.

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