**Curl Up and Be Cozy**

**Staff Favorites On a Cold Winter Day**

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**White Oleander** by Janet Fitch – Ashley’s pick

Everywhere hailed as a novel of rare beauty and power, *White Oleander* tells the unforgettable story of Ingrid, a brilliant poet imprisoned for murder, and her daughter, Astrid, whose odyssey through a series of Los Angeles foster homes—each its own universe, with its own laws, its own dangers, its own hard lessons to be learned—becomes a redeeming and surprising journey of self-discovery.

**Eye of the World** by Robert Jordan – Warren’s pick

The Wheel of Time turns and Ages come and go, leaving memories that become legend. In the Third Age, an Age of Prophecy, the World and Time themselves hang in the balance. What was, what will be, and what is, may yet fall under the Shadow. When The Two Rivers is attacked by Trollocs—a savage tribe of half-men, half-beasts—five villagers flee that night into a world they barely imagined, with new dangers waiting in the shadows and in the light.

**The Lord of the Rings** trilogy by J.R.R. Tolkien – Theresa’s pick

In ancient times the Rings of Power were crafted by the Elven-smiths, and Sauron forged the One Ring filling it with his own power so that he could rule all others. But the One Ring was taken from him. After many ages it fell by chance into the hands of the hobbit Bilbo Baggins. When Bilbo reached his eleventh-first birthday he disappeared, bequeathing to his young cousin Frodo the Ring and a perilous quest: to journey across Middle-earth, deep into the shadow of the Dark Lord, and destroy the Ring by casting it into the Cracks of Doom.

**The Children’s Blizzard** by David Laskin – Rebecca’s pick

The ‘Children’s Blizzard’ of 1888 is the gripping story of an epic prairie snowstorm that killed hundreds of newly arrived settlers and cast a shadow on the promise of the American frontier. It captures this pivotal moment in American history by tracing the stories of five families who were forever changed that day. Drawing on family interviews and memoirs, as well as hundreds of contemporary accounts, Laskin creates an intimate picture of the families and a meticulous account of the evolution of the storm and the vain struggle of government forecasters to track its progress.

**Charmed** by Nora Roberts—Ally’s pick

Boone Sawyer never expected to move next door to a woman who looked like one of the fairy princesses he often wrote about. Anastasia Donovan had a serene kind of femininity that would baffle and allure any man who was still breathing -- and Boone was definitely breathing! Ana’s gift was for healing. Though her mysterious new neighbor made his living writing fairy tales, she didn’t think he’d easily accept her legacy. But when an accident put a life at stake, she could not deny her powers though it could cost her Boone’s love and risk her very life.

**Outside the Jukebox** by Scott Bradlee – Derek’s pick

Bradlee began experimenting, applying his passion for jazz, ragtime, and doo wop styles to contemporary hits by singers like Macklemore and Miley Cyrus and suddenly an idea was born. Postmodern Jukebox, the rotating supergroup devoted to period covers of pop songs which Bradlee created in a basement apartment in Queens, New York, is a bona fide global sensation. Radiohead’s “Creep” to its New Orleans jazz interpretation of Meghan Trainor’s “All About That Bass,” the group has established a sound like no other.

**All Creatures Great and Small** by James Herriot – Tara’s pick

In *All Creatures Great and Small*, we meet the young Herriot as he takes up his calling and discovers that the realities of veterinary practice in rural Yorkshire are very different from the sterile setting of veterinary school. From seeing to his patients in the depths of winter on the remotest homesteads to dealing with uncooperative owners and critically ill animals, Herriot discovers the wondrous variety and never-ending challenges of veterinary practice as his humor, compassion, and love of the animal world shine forth.

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**The Language of Flowers** by Vanessa Diffenbaugh—Suzanne’s pick

The Victorian language of flowers was used to convey romantic expressions. But for Victoria Jones, it’s been more useful in communicating mistrust and solitude. After a childhood spent in the foster-care system, her only connection to the world is through flowers and their meanings. Now eighteen and emancipated from the system, Victoria realizes she has a gift for helping others through the flowers she chooses for them. When she’s forced to confront a painful secret from her past, she must decide whether it’s worth risking everything for a second chance at happiness.