

Action and Adventure

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Action is the Name of the Game

Everybody Dies by Lawrence Block. **RC 48201.**

Matt Scudder is asked by his old friend, Irish mobster Mick Ballou to investigate the killings of members of his gang. Soon Scudder and Ballou are targets for murder. Scudder receives little help from his former colleagues, the cops, who hate Ballou. Strong language and violence.

The Black Echo by Michael Connelly. **RC 34800.**

When Los Angeles police detective Harry Bosch sees the tattoo on a corpse, he recognizes the man as William Meadows, one of his fellow tunnel rats in Vietnam. Although evidence points to death by drug overdose, Bosch's suspicions of foul play soon have him tangling with the FBI. With the help of Agent Eleanor Wish, Bosch begins to uncover a 20-year-old robbery scheme. Strong language, violence, and some descriptions of sex.

A Dance at the Slaughterhouse by Lawrence Block. **RC 35110.**

Unlicensed private investigator Matthew Scudder has gained control over his drinking and has a new friend and assistant, call girl Elaine. Scudder has been hired by a man who believes his sister was murdered by her husband. He has also been asked to investigate a snuff films case. Scudder soon discovers the cases are related. Violence, strong language, and descriptions of sex.

Whiskey River by Loren D. Estleman. **RC 34363.**

While testifying before a grand jury, journalist Connie Minor relives the previous decade of Prohibition in Detroit, gangster wars, liquor runs, and police corruption. A key figure in Minor's recollections is Jack Dance, a young hood who quickly rose through the ranks. Violence and strong language.

The Doomsday Conspiracy by Sidney Sheldon. **RC 34012.**

Witnesses had stared in horror at the crash of a "weather balloon" in the Swiss Alps. Commander Robert Bellamy of Naval Intelligence has been ordered to find all of them and assure their silence. His only clue is that the witnesses were on the same tour bus. As Bellamy travels the globe, he discovers he is in the midst of an international conspiracy guided by alien forces. Strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex.

Blood Marks by Bill Crider. **RC 36527.**

When nine Houston women are murdered over two years, the only link is the lack of clues left at the crime sites. As the murderer begins to secretly record his strategy for posterity, he meets his new neighbor Casey Buckner. She, too, has the blood marks and so she, too, must die. But how? Meanwhile, a witness to his only sloppy murder, his first, has finally remembered something. Strong language, violence, and explicit descriptions of sex.

Killer's Wedge by Ed McBain. **RC 38234.**

It is a normal Friday afternoon in the 87th Precinct squad room, until Virginia Dodge walks in. Now the detectives are under siege by a woman holding a gun and a bottle of nitroglycerin. Dodge's husband has just died in jail, and she is seeking retribution against Steve Carella, the cop who sent him there. As Dodge waits for Carella's arrival, she vows to kill anyone who attempts to stop her. Strong language and some violence.

Hard Drive by David Pogue. **RC 38258.**

Artelligence Software, a Silicon Valley company, is about to introduce Master Voice, a computer with a speech-recognition system. Once all the bugs are worked out and the machines are installed all across the country, a lethal virus creates havoc. This is clearly not the sort of debut intended, and no one seems to know how to stop it until a programmer creates SURvIVor, an antiviral cure. But it must work immediately to save the company. Strong language.

Mirror Maze by William Bayer. **RC 37811.**

Two cases are consuming New York Lieutenant Frank Janek. A young woman is drugging "marks" and robbing them while they sleep. She is driven by a twisted past that is centered in the maze of mirrors built by her father beneath their house. Meanwhile, clues concerning the decade-old kinky murder of a society woman have come to light. Just as Janek is finally wrapping up both cases, they merge in a horrifying way. Strong language and violence.

Absolute Power by David Baldacci. **RC 41882.**

At 66, with several jail terms behind him, Luther Whitney has decided this will be his last robbery. Everything goes according to plan, until Christine Sullivan comes home unexpectedly. Luther quickly hides in the walk-in safe and discovers it contains a one-way window. Soon Luther finds himself witnessing a brutal murder involving the president of the United States. Strong language and some descriptions of sex.

Chromosome 6 by Robin Cook. **RC 44637.**

The body of a murdered Mafia boss vanishes from the city morgue and is later recovered in a mutilated condition. A pair of forensic pathologists traces the mystery to the jungles of equatorial Africa and uncovers a conspiracy to alter the course of evolution. Strong language and violence.

Violent Crimes by Hugh Holton. **RC 46632.**

The bombing of a Black Muslim mosque is psychopath Steve Zalkin's first strike for imagined past wrongs. Zalkin is working a Chicago hit list that includes cops, a reporter, and a nun. Also targeted is officer Larry Cole, who races to stop the madman. Strong language, violence, and descriptions of sex.

Hard Time by Sara Paretsky. **RC 48812.**

Chicago private detective V.I. Warshawski finds a fatally injured female escaped convict in the road. Police want to charge V.I. with murder, and the victim's powerful former employer is less than helpful. The relentless sleuth is burglarized, beaten, and imprisoned before she learns the truth. Violence and some strong language.

Rainbow Drive by Roderick Thorp. **RC 25279.**

Mike Gallagher, acting head of the Hollywood homicide squad, is lying in the bed of his married girlfriend when he hears noises which sound an awful lot like people being killed. Pretty soon, Mike realizes that vicious corruption and terrible secrets abound throughout the Los Angeles Police Department. Strong language, some violence, and explicit descriptions of sex.

Death Games by Michael Jahn. **RC 25569.**

Using a Civil War Colt revolver, a beautiful hit woman is killing the leaders of organized crime on Manhattan's West Side. Police Lieutenant Bill Donovan and his partner, Sergeant Jefferson, must sort out the murders and prevent a threatened underworld slaughter. The two policemen follow a trail that leads them to Virginia, Ireland, and the yacht races off the coast of Newport, Rhode Island. Some strong language and some descriptions of sex.

Kiss by John Lutz. **RC 28564.**

Greedy relatives are hiring a special kind of hit man who speeds up the inevitable for certain wealthy residents of Sunhaven Retirement Home and then takes a cut from the settled estate. Disabled ex-cop Fred Carver, with some help from a teenage runaway working as a receptionist at the home, finds plenty of suspects. Some strong language.

Heaven's Prisoners by James Lee Burke. **RC 28064.**

Ex-New Orleans cop Dave and his wife, Annie, are fishing on the gulf when a small plane crashes nearby. The plane's passengers are Nicaraguan refugees attempting to enter the United States illegally, and they all perish except a young girl whom Dave rescues. This encounter lands Dave and Annie in the midst of an immigration squabble and then a drug war. Some strong language and some descriptions of sex.

Strange Affair by Peter Robinson. **RC 61722.**

Detective Annie Cabbot investigates the case of a young woman found shot to death in a car. The crime scene yields a note bearing Inspector Alan Banks' name and address. Meanwhile an urgent message sends Alan to London to find his estranged brother. Some violence and strong language.

Hard Revolution by George Pelecanos. **RC 58809.**

Washington, D.C., 1968. Rookie police officer Derek Strange encounters racism and violence on the job; his brother Dennis turns to drugs and crime. The riots following Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination test Derek's resolve. Violence, strong language, and some descriptions of sex.

Where is Janice Gantry? By John D. Macdonald. **RC 62288.**

Sam Brice, a divorced automobile appraiser for a Florida Keys insurance company, aids escaped convict Charles Haywood, inadvertently leading to the disappearance of Sam's ex-lover, Janice Gantry. Police believe Charles abducted Janice, but Sam--himself a suspect--investigates on his own. Descriptions of sex and some strong language.

Anchors Aweigh

The Navy SEALs (Sea, Air, Land) take their name from the elements in and from which they operate. Their stealth and clandestine methods of operation allow them to conduct multiple missions against targets that larger forces cannot approach undetected. From their beginning in 1962 they have proved themselves to be a special breed of men.

Executive Power by Vince Flynn. **RC 56302.**

CIA agent Mitch Rapp directs the search for a terrorist whose goal is to ignite war in the Middle East. Rapp is ready to fight the war on terrorism from CIA headquarters rather than the front line until a platoon of Navy SEALs, sent to the Philippines to save an American family kidnapped by radical Islamic terrorists, is caught in a deadly ambush. The mission had been top secret, so who told the enemy? Violence and strong language.

Fatal Tide by Iris Johansen. **RC 56902.**

After the apparent death of her foster father, dolphin researcher Melis Nemid continues his search for a legendary underwater city believed to harbor powerful technological secrets. Assisting her is ex-Navy SEAL Jed Kelby, who finds the opportunity, and Melis, irresistible. So does a killer. Some descriptions of sex, some violence, and some strong language.

Going Overboard by Christina Skye. **RC 53024.**

Photographer Carolina Sullivan tries to hire gorgeous Ford McKay as a model while on a cruise ship. McKay, a Navy SEAL, is elusive until he learns that protecting Carly is his undercover assignment. Both are workaholics so attempt to avoid an affair. Some descriptions of sex, some violence, and some strong language.

Hatteras Blue by David Poyer. **RC 46794.**

Ex-Navy SEAL Tiller Galloway runs a salvage business off the coast of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina where a U-boat went down in 1945. Richard Keyes, interested in the discovery of bodies from that boat, hires Galloway to help him do historical research. But Galloway soon finds himself in dangerous waters. Some violence and some strong language.

Into the Night by Suzanne Brockmann. **RC 55522.**

When White House public relations assistant Joan DaCosta arrives at California's Coronado Naval Base to prepare for the president's visit, she never expects to fall for her much younger SEAL liaison. As the SEALs train for their VIP demonstration, terrorists plan their own. Explicit descriptions of sex, strong language, and some violence.

The Last Jihad by Joel C. Rosenberg. **RC 55521.**

When Iraq launches simultaneous terror attacks against Israel, Saudi Arabia, and the West, the wounded American president enlists a former employee, Wall Street guru Jon Bennett, to help broker a peace settlement. But the threat of a desperate nuclear offensive by the rogue state looms and the Navy SEALs must intervene. Violence and some strong language.

The Monkey Handlers by G. Gordon Liddy. **RC 55908.**

Lawyer Michael Stone, an ex-Navy SEAL, represents Sara Rosen, an animal activist arrested for trespassing at a pharmaceutical plant. Her incriminating photographs of the animal research lab threaten to expose the German owners, who will do anything to stop her. Violence, strong language, and some explicit descriptions of sex.

The Perfect Soldier by James F. Dunnigan. **RC 58680.**

Military analyst surveys the evolution of elite combat units, focusing on the twentieth century. Discusses tactics of the Russian Spetsnaz, British Special Air Service, U.S. Navy SEALs, and other special forces operating during World War II, the Vietnam conflict, and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The Price of Power by James W. Huston. **RC 51336.**

President Pendleton has Admiral Billings arrested for insubordination, even as Indonesian pirates begin kidnapping Americans. Pendleton is in turn impeached and Jim Dillon finds himself defending the admiral in court. Meanwhile, Navy SEALs await orders to attack. Some violence.

Rainbow Six by Tom Clancy. **RC 46775.**

John Clark, ex-Navy SEAL, is off to London to head up the antiterrorist strike force, Rainbow Six, when his plane is hijacked. He and co-worker Ding Chavez quickly foil the attempt. In England, the two deal with bank robbers, hostage situations, a raid, and an environmentalist who thinks more of nature than humans. Violence and strong language.

Sweepers by Peter T. Deutermann. **RC 49145.**

Newly promoted Admiral Sherman is questioned by police about his girlfriend's suspicious death. The Navy's Judge Advocate General puts Commander Karen Lawrence on the case, and she learns Sherman may have been framed by a SEAL he left to die in Vietnam.

Car Adventures

Who knows what will happen when you get in the car? Sometimes you can have a grand adventure; and sometimes it can be downright scary.

The Betsy by Harold Robbins. **RC 51098.**

The founder of the Hardeman dynasty and Bethlehem Motors, now part of a giant monopoly, is still powerful at the age of 91. He challenges the leadership of his grandson by making plans for a dream car to be called the Betsy. Explicit descriptions of sex and strong language.

Blood Lines by Jan Burke. **RC 61855.**

In 1958 five wealthy Ducane family members, including an infant, go missing while a journalist witnesses an automobile's mysterious burial. In 1978 the car is uncovered with human remains inside. Twenty years later reporter Irene Kelly solves the intriguing case. Strong language and some violence.

Boy's Life by Robert R. McCammon. **RC 33904.**

Zephyr, Alabama, 1964. Cory and his father, Tom, are making milk deliveries when suddenly a car speeds past them, hurtles down an embankment, and plunges into a lake. Tom immediately leaps into the lake, hoping to save the driver. But when he reaches the car, he sees the face of murder. As Cory and his father seek answers to the killing of the unknown man, Cory finds himself in a world of adult evils. Violence and strong language.

Escape the Night by Richard North Patterson. **RC 41077.**

In 1959, publishing heir Charles Carey and his wife die in a car accident. Their young son Peter is rescued from the wreck by Charles's brother, Phillip. Peter, rather than Phillip, later inherits 51 percent of the business. Now grown, Peter is trying to decipher his nightmares, unaware that someone is listening to his every word just as with his father. Strong language, violence, and explicit descriptions of sex.

From a Buick 8 by Stephen King. **RC 54687.**

It looked like an ordinary eight-cylinder 1954 Buick Roadmaster abandoned at a Pennsylvania gas station. But within hours, an investigating policeman has inexplicably vanished. Hoping to keep things quiet, the troopers put the car under lock and key. But it has a malevolent life of its own. Strong language and some violence.

The Powwow Highway by David Seals. **RC 36462.**

When Montana Cheyenne Philbert Bono acquires a beat-up '64 Buick he christens it his warrior pony, the Protector. Bono and his car are enlisted by Vietnam vet Buddy Red Bird, who is on a frantic mission to bust his sister Bonnie out of jail in Santa Fe. The hitch is that Bonnie's arrest involved planted drugs and the mafia, and the bail is much higher than Buddy can pay. Strong language, some violence, and some explicit descriptions of sex.

The Silver Ghost by Charlotte Macleod. **RC 31209.**

A vintage 1927 New Phantom Rolls Royce is missing from Bill Billingsgate's collection of rare cars. Sarah Kelling Bittersohn and her husband Max have been asked to do some sleuthing during Billingsgate's annual Renaissance Revel, and also to keep an eye on the rest of his priceless collection. However, during the festivities, Aunt Brodie and another car disappear. But how? The gates are locked, and the security system is on.

Topper by Thorne Smith. **RC 61471.**

Mild-mannered banker Cosmo Topper buys a second-hand car that is haunted by the ghosts of its former owners, George and Marion Kerby. The rowdy couple, determined to rescue Topper from his drab life, include him in their madcap pranks and adventures.

Wild Kat by Karen Kijewski. **RC 38611.**

Private Investigator Kat Colorado is on the way to Fresno when an out-of-control car passes her and crashes into the center divider. She goes to the driver's rescue and, as a result, is hired to protect Jude Hudson's wife, Amanda, whose car he had been driving. Amanda, who works for Loudon Medical Supply, has discovered that the company is making defective artificial hearts, and she is trying to blow the whistle. Violence and strong language.

Casino Adventures: Adventure Is Where You Find It, and in the Casinos Sometimes You Just Can't Win

Backflash by Richard Stark. **RC 50460.**

Although Parker is suspicious of the motives of a retired New York civil servant who wants him to rob a riverboat casino on the Hudson, he rounds up three partners to commit the crime. Afterwards, Parker and his gang realize that they have been set up. Violence and strong language.

Bad News by Donald Westlake. **RC 53434.**

Professional thief John Dortmunder gets involved in a gambling casino scam. Little Feather Redcorn and her accomplices switch bodies from graveyards to prove that she is the last member of her tribe and is entitled to millions. Some strong language.

Bob the Gambler by Frederick Bartheleme. **RC 46676.**

Although they have lived in Biloxi, Mississippi, for years, Ray and Jewel Kaiser have never been to the gambling casinos. On their first night out, they discover that they like the excitement and thrill of winning, and soon they are addicted. Nicknamed "Bob the Gambler" by his teenage stepdaughter, Ray eventually loses a lot. Some strong language.

Cry Dance by Kirk Mitchell. **RC 53786.**

Investigator Emmett Parker, a Comanche with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and rookie FBI agent Anna Turnipseed, a Modoc, investigate a Bureau of Land Management employee's murder on an Arizona reservation. They soon discover corruption within the tribes and the lucrative casino business. Violence and strong language.

Glitz by Leonard Elmore. **RC 21502.**

A thriller about the world of casino gambling told with tension, tenderness, and humor. In Puerto Rico, tough Miami cop Vincent Mora meets pretty Iris Ruiz who is headed for a job in an Atlantic City casino. When Iris is found dead, Mora investigates her murder amid the hired killers and high rollers of the New Jersey resort. Strong language and descriptions of sex.

Hunting Badger by Tony Hillerman. **RC 49475.**

A casino robbery on the Ute reservation leaves one guard dead, while a second is wounded and held under suspicion. As Navajo Tribal Police sergeant Jim Chee tracks the criminals in the Four Corners canyons, retired cop Joe Leaphorn receives a startling tip identifying the perpetrators. Some violence.

The Palace by Paul Erdman. **RC 27396.**

With luck, curiosity, and a bit of know-how, a short, pudgy, middle-aged coin dealer turns his small Philadelphia shop into an extremely profitable foreign exchange business. Before long, he enters the high stakes world as the new owner of Las Vegas' glitziest and wealthiest casino, but suddenly he finds his path to prosperity blocked by opportunistic, greedy partners, unscrupulous former associates, and ambitious politicians. Some strong language.

Under the Boardwalk by Bill Kent. **RC 30312.**

Louis Monroe is only five-foot-two, but he is tough and he is honest. Right out of police academy, he patrols the Boardwalk in Atlantic City. Rookies are given that beat so they can learn to smile at the tourists. Monroe intercepts a man bent on blowing up a casino full of people and earns a promotion to the vice squad. Then his education really begins. Some strong language and some descriptions of sex.

Writ of Execution by Perri O'Shaughnessy. **RC 52461.**

Lake Tahoe attorney Nina Reilly is hired to help a young woman who has won millions in a casino but who cannot reveal her true identity. Nina's sometime lover, Paul van Wagoner, helps to investigate even as witnesses are being murdered. Some descriptions of sex, some violence, and some strong language.

Disasters: Nonfiction

Fire and Ashes by John N. Maclean. **RC 57258.**

Writer of *Fire on the Mountain* (RC 50200) examines the conditions of America's forests, the history of wildland fires, and the dangers of fighting them. Includes an interview with the last survivor of a 1949 tragedy that the author's father wrote about in *Young Men and Fire* (RC 35639). Some strong language.

Fire on the Mountain: The True Story of the South Canyon Fire

by John N. Maclean. **RC 50200.**

An account of the 1994 forest fire on Colorado's Storm King Mountain, which claimed the lives of fourteen elite firefighters, including four women. Reconstructs the human errors that compounded the natural disaster, mistakes made during the investigations that followed, and lessons to be learned. Some strong language.

Fire on the Rim by Stephen J. Pyne. **RC 30012.**

Pyne has spent fifteen summers working for the Park Service as a "Longshot" firefighter on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. He recounts his firefighting adventures and uses those experiences to illustrate some of the ideological and environmental issues that emerged as a result of the fires of 1988.

Holding Back the Sea by Christopher Hallowell. **RC 62427.**

Professor examines the plight of coastal Louisiana wetlands. Attributes their decline to sea-level rise, erosion, dredging, and the levee system and discusses how special-interest groups have hampered preservation efforts. The account, first published in 2001, predicts the inevitability and consequences of hurricanes and includes a post-Hurricane Katrina introduction.

The Johnstown Flood by David G. McCullough. **RC 50905.**

A vivid description of the causes and effects of the Johnstown, Pennsylvania, flood of 1889 that killed thousands. Based on first-person accounts of the tragedy that occurred when a man-made dam broke, flooding the entire valley with twenty million tons of water and debris.

Aboman's Guide to: Survival & Self-Reliance: Practical Skills for Interesting Times by Joseph A. Bigley **RC 56439.**

Advice on how to deal with challenges presented by unexpected equipment breakdowns, weather disasters, and other such events. The manual contains information on preparing for emergencies, troubleshooting household problems, and maintaining health through alternative medicine and herbal remedies. Also highlights wilderness survival skills.

New Orleans, Mon Amour by Andrei Codrescu. **RC 62097.**

Essays from a Romanian-born National Public Radio commentator about his adopted city of New Orleans. Includes some pieces written after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Describes the Big Easy and its inhabitants, food, cemeteries, eccentrics, neighborhoods, Mardi Gras, and crime.

A River and Its City by Ari Kelman. **RC 62235.**

Professor explains the environmental history of New Orleans covering fires, floods, hurricanes, and epidemics. Describes the city's value as a port, its social tragedies, and the power of geography. Discusses the struggle to control the Mississippi River through levees and channeling. Includes a post-Hurricane Katrina preface that advocates rebuilding.

Twin Towers: The Life of New York City's World Trade Center by Angus K. Gillespie. **RC 53309.**

A history of the World Trade Center, written before the destruction of the twin towers on September 11, 2001. Recounts how the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey first conceived of the complex and how the plans were executed. Includes an account of a day in the center's life.

Rudy Giuliani: Emperor of the City by Andrew Kirtzman. **RC 54285.**

The administration of former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani in a reporter's account that includes the destruction at the World Trade Center. Describes the ex-prosecutor's policies, personality, bitter rivalries, and family problems. Illustrates how the city recovered from decades of crime and corruption. Some strong language.

Disaster! The Great San Francisco Earthquake and Fire of 1906 by Dan Kurrzman. **RC 53784.**

Recreates the historic California catastrophe by recounting personal tragedies that occurred during the destruction of San Francisco. Describes the social scene the night before the earthquake and the reactions of citizens, government officials, and soldiers during the following three days of fire and chaos.

Shackleton's Forgotten Men: The Untold Tragedy of the Endurance Epic by Lennard Bickel. **RC 51969.**

In 1915 Shackleton's expedition was marooned in ice on one side of Antarctica. Meanwhile, on the other side a small team of men and dogs persevered to supply food depots for Shackleton's expected transcontinental crossing. Relates the attendant tragedies of the 2,000-mile sledge journey to fulfill an obligation of honor.

Rising Tide: The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 and How It Changed America by John M. Barry. **RC 46388.**

An account of the catastrophic flood of 1927, in which at least one thousand Americans were killed and another million displaced by the swollen Mississippi River. Traces early engineering efforts at river control, which set the stage for the disaster. Explores the flood's far-reaching social, political, and economic implications.

Great Lakes Shipwrecks & Survivals by William Ratigan. **RC 47621.**

History of maritime disasters on each of the North American inland seas: Lakes Michigan, Huron, Erie, Superior, and Ontario. Describes how vessels and their crews functioned during catastrophic storms. A separate section details the November 1975 wreck of the cargo ship Edmund Fitzgerald.

Don't Go Near the Water

Monsters of the Sea by Richard Ellis. **RC 42471.**

Ellis, a cryptozoologist who studies the reported existence of unknown creatures, provides an analysis of some of the terrifying "monsters" people throughout history have believed to live in the sea. Through further research, the unknown and unnamed "monsters" became such "familiar" creatures as octopuses, whales, manatees, and sharks. Ellis also discusses the need to protect and preserve the creatures of the sea.

The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway. **RC 53792.**

A short novel of an old Cuban fisherman who hooks a huge marlin after 85 days without a single catch. Battling the sea, the fisherman tows the marlin back to Havana, only to find that sharks have eaten it.

Beast by Peter Benchley. **RC 33049.**

The waters around Bermuda are fished out, and a giant squid, driven by the shortage, begins to feast on humans. Its first victims are a couple headed home from a romantic six month cruise. Its next victims are the twins of a New York media magnate. Whip Darling, an expert on the deep, identifies the killer by marks left on several wrecks. Can anyone stop this enormous beast and its insatiable appetite? Some strong language.

Meg: A Novel of Deep Terror by Steve Alten. **RC 44838.**

Professor Jonas Taylor theorizes that the great white shark that thrived seventy million years ago and could devour a Tyrannosaurus Rex may exist beneath the sea. When his research causes a great white shark named Meg to emerge, Taylor is unprepared to handle her or her young. Some violence and some strong language.

Mrs. Chippy's Last Expedition by Caroline Alexander. **RC 46193.**

The whimsical chronicle of Mrs. Chippy, a male cat that sailed with Sir Ernest Shackleton's 1914 expedition to Antarctica. Recounts the perils of sailing on frozen seas, the ordeal of being stranded when the ship was crushed by ice, and the crew's miraculous escape and survival.

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In the Heart of the Sea by Nathaniel Philbrick. **RC 50271.**

Relying mainly on the cabin boy's journal discovered in 1960, the author recounts the disastrous 1819 voyage of the whaling ship *Essex*. He describes the attack of an 85 foot bull sperm whale, and the ensuing starvation, dehydration, and cannibalism that befell the shipwrecked survivors.

High Flying Fiction

The Advocate by Bill Mesce. **RC 51707.**

England, 1943. Two American bombers suddenly attack a third plane as well as civilian witnesses on the ground. As Major Harry Voss of the Judge Advocate General's office delves into the incident, he uncovers secrets that the higher-ups want to keep concealed. Some violence and some strong language.

Air Battle Force by Dale Brown. **RC 56547.**

At an underground air base, Major General Patrick McLanahan and his team develop a mobile air combat unit. The team may soon test the project's advanced sensor capabilities and precision weaponry against Taliban forces invading Turkmenistan, Afghanistan's oil-rich neighbor. Strong language and some violence.

All Fall Down by Lee Gruenfeld. **RC 40245.**

An airliner pilot's instruments are misreading, sending him off course. This, only a day after the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) in Washington had received a warning outlining this exact incident. FBI agent Jack Webster helps his former colleagues at NTSB track down the blackmailer, who is threatening a repeat performance. But a veteran pilot in an old plane must face the sociopath head-on. Strong language and some violence.

Around the World in 80 Days by Jules Verne. **RC 53171.**

London, 1872. Well-to-do, eccentric Phileas Fogg is certain that he can travel around the world in eighty days. He's so sure that he's wagered half of his fortune and set off on the grand adventure with his servant, Passepartout.

Blaze of Glory by Michael Carreck. **RC 20469.**

Newly-trained Royal Air Force bomber pilot Tony Marlowe quickly learns that night bombing raids over Germany are not as glorious as wartime propaganda make them out to be. His missions become meaningless, gut wrenching ordeals of terror and survival. Strong language and explicit descriptions of sex.

Booby Trap by William Stevenson. **RC 26226.**

Gabbiya, a Quaddafi-like Arab leader, buys a group of islands in the Caribbean and wants to put his flag there. A group of private citizens are determined to stop him. Led by Pete Casey, an ex-Vietnam P.O.W. turned marine technologist, the group includes Alison Bracken, a beautiful lady lawyer, and Melanie, who may be a double agent. They set out on the daring mission in a battered World War 2 airplane. Strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex.

Eagle Station by Mark Berent. **RC 42374.**

Loyalty stemming from their days at the Air Force Academy in the 1950s unites the men as they fight in Vietnam in 1968. Ken Tanaka and Court Bannister fly their F-4s on dangerous missions over Laos. Manuel Dominguez is a rescue jumper whose daring helps him forget the injustice of his dismissal from the academy. Strong language, violence, and some descriptions of sex.

Falcons by Ray Rosenbaum. **RC 39672.**

Ross Colyer first crosses swords with Broderick Templeton III, son of a United States senator, in 1941 when both are young pilots in Hawaii. They avoid each other when they meet again in England but are sent together to Africa to train for a secret mission to destroy Romanian oil refineries in Ploesti. Then the mission goes awry and they end up in enemy territory. Strong language, some violence, and some descriptions of sex.

Fatal Terrain by Dale Brown. **RC 45110.**

When tensions erupt between Taiwan and mainland China, America's options are limited by its recent military cutbacks. On the scene is United States Air Force pilot McLanahan in a modified B-52 equipped with the latest cruise missiles. When war breaks out, McLanahan's lethal payload turns the tide of the conflict. Strong language.

Firebreak by Richard Herman, Jr. **RC 41461.**

The second Gulf War has ended, but Iraq, Syria, and Egypt are planning a joint attack on Israel. Israel threatens to use its powerful nuclear weapons if Iraq uses its deadly nerve gas. Hoping to avert another war, United States President Zachary Pontowski sends to the area a squadron of fighter planes, one piloted by his grandson Matt.

Firefox by Thomas Craig. **RC 23858.**

The new Soviet super warplane, codenamed "Firefox", has a unique weapons system activated by the pilot's thoughts. Recognizing that "Firefox" is years ahead of western developments, British and American intelligence forces conspire to steal it. Strong language and violence.

Flying Hero Class by Thomas Keneally. **RC 34298.**

It should have been a routine flight from New York to Frankfurt for Frank McCloud, his wife, and the Australian aborigine dance troop he manages. Their New York show had been a success, and Frank had sold his novel. But a group of Palestinians hijacks the plane and tries to convince the dancers that their country is being taken over and that McCloud is to blame. He is subjected to a show trial and witnesses an execution before the flight ends. Strong language.

Ground Zero by Richard Hubert Francis Cox. **RC 24979.**

Tipped off by a beautiful airline hostess, unemployed ex-Royal Air Force fighter pilot Tom Lloyd answers a want ad from CONOIL, an international oil company. CONOIL wants to blow up a plane carrying an atomic bomb from Pakistan to Libya, thus preventing Qaddafi from using the weapon. Some strong language.

Hammerheads by Dale Brown. **RC 32048.**

The "hammerheads" was the nickname earned by an elite Coast Guard unit charged with intercepting contraband liquor during Prohibition. Admiral Ian Hardcastle is given the task of stopping the influx of illegal drugs into the United States. His strategy is to disband existing forces and resurrect the "hammerheads." Their weapon is a hybrid helicopter and fixed-wing aircraft. Strong language.

Headwind by John J. Nance. **RC 52810.**

When an international warrant threatens former American president John Harris, commercial jet pilot Craig Dayton defiantly takes off with Harris on board. While airborne, Harris arranges assistance from disbarred judge Jay Reinhart and a group of World War 2 veterans.

The Kill Box by Chris Stewart. **RC 50630.**

On a return flight from the Middle East, *Air Force One* crashes, killing all aboard including the vice president. When investigators find lethal biological agents in the wreckage, Captain Charlie McKay leads a retaliatory air strike force to Iraq in an attempt to avert another terrorist disaster. Violence.

The Last Kamikaze by M.E. Morris. **RC 33230.**

Saburo Genda is primed for his final flight when it is suddenly aborted by the surrender of the Japanese to the Allies. Now, as the fiftieth anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor nears, Genda still seeks revenge on America for the death of his family. Meanwhile, George Sakai, a second generation Japanese-American enlisted to thwart terrorists, learns that Genda is already airborne in a stolen Zero fighter plane and headed across the Pacific toward the West.

Medusa's Child by John J. Nance. **RC 45964.**

Air freight pilot Scott McKay discovers on board his plane an armed atomic weapon with a device that could cripple every computer in North America. Spurning official orders, McKay directs his craft seaward, away from populations and into the teeth of a hurricane. Strong language.

Pandora's Clock by John J. Nance. **RC 41988.**

After American 747 flight 66 leaves Germany, a passenger has a heart attack. Pilot James Holland is shocked when London refuses to let him make an emergency landing. The passenger was exposed to a mysterious virus and no country, not even the United States, wants to handle a possible epidemic. Doctor Sanders of the CIA is Holland's only real ally, but Sanders must convince the pilot of that in time to save him. Strong language and violence.

The Ransom of Black Stealth One by Dean Ing. **RC 31094.**

Black Stealth One is the most sophisticated aircraft in existence. It cannot be detected by radar, and, chameleon-like, it has the capacity to take on the color of the background against which it flies. Kyle Corbett has stolen the prototype of the plane and kidnapped Petra, a young and beautiful engineer. Now the CIA and KGB are after him. Violence, strong language, and descriptions of sex.

Runway Zero-Eight by Arthur Hailey. **RC 59882.**

On a flight from Winnipeg to Vancouver pilots, passengers, and crew are suddenly stricken with food poisoning. Dr. Bruno Baird and flight attendant Janet Benson attend the sick, while retired WWII fighter pilot George Spencer attempts to land the plane, although he has not flown in thirteen years.

The Sound of Wings by Spencer Dunmore. **RC 23388.**

A mixture of aeronautics, mystery, the occult, and romance. Adam Beale, an unhappily married copilot, avoids a collision with a monoplane that only he can see. When he identifies the plane as a Bellanca used by Mae Nolan in a doomed 1927 attempt to fly across the Atlantic, he comes to understand why Nolan and her ghost plane are trying to contact him. Some strong language.

Targets of Opportunity by Joe Weber. **RC 37770.**

Marine pilot Brad Austin is puzzled when he is transferred back to the states and told by civilian Cap Spencer to change his identity and turn in his uniforms. Austin, along with three other pilots, is asked to test fly a rickety North Vietnamese plane. Why this is so hush-hush soon becomes apparent: Spencer is CIA and he wants the pilots to fly this bucket of bolts into enemy territory for surprise attacks. Some strong language and violence.

Turbulence by John J. Nance. **RC 54676.**

Meridian Air is noted for horrible customer service that causes passenger rage. Mutiny aboard Flight 6 gains momentum after the captain makes an emergency landing in Nigeria. No one in the plane is aware that the CIA believes terrorists are on board. Some violence and some strong language.

Up in the Air by Walter Kirn. **RC 53856.**

Ryan Bingham travels from city to city across America performing a job he hates, firing people. He is a citizen of "Airworld," a parallel universe of airplanes, airports, chain food, rent-a-cars, and suite hotels. He is close to attaining his frequent-flier goal, one million bonus miles, before he quits or is fired himself. Some strong language.

When the Wind Blows by James Patterson. **RC 47042.**

In Colorado, FBI agent Kit Harrison searches for a laboratory that is illegally bio-engineering children to fly. He enlists help from veterinarian Frannie O'Neill when she sees a child flying in the woods. After rescuing the girl from her hunters, Kit and Frannie go after the other bird children. Some strong language, some violence, and some descriptions of sex.

Man Against the Weather

Blizzard: The Storm That Changed America by Jim Murphy.
RC 52323.

An account of the massive snow storm that shut down America's east coast in March 1888, killing hundreds. Transportation, food, and coal supplies suddenly ceased. The disaster led to many improvements, including the establishment of the United States Weather Bureau.

The Blizzard Of '88 by Mary Cable. **RC 27714.**

Social history blends with human drama in this vivid chronicle of the ferocious storm that crippled cities and sunk ships as it buffeted the eastern seaboard on March 12, 1888. The winds, ice, snow, and bitter cold exacted a physical as well as psychological toll, particularly on New York City, where city dwellers, dependent on recently installed technological marvels, suddenly found themselves in the midst of anarchy.

The Coldest March: Scott's Fatal Antarctic Expedition by Susan Solomon. **RC 56195.**

Scientist uses her meteorological expertise and personal knowledge of Antarctica to reevaluate Scott's preparations for the 1912 polar journey that ended in his death. Interlaces the expedition's accounts with contemporary scientific information, reestablishing Scott's reputation as a competent, courageous hero foiled by unpredictable and exceptionally cold weather.

The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition by Caroline Alexander in association with the American Museum of Natural History. **RC 47531.**

Chronicles the survival of Ernest Shackleton and his crew of twenty-seven men marooned on ice floes off the coast of Antarctica in 1915. Recounts the entrapment and later destruction of their ship, the Endurance, by pack ice and the hardships the men suffered before their rescue in 1916.

Fatal Storm: The Inside Story of the Tragic Sydney-Hobart Race by Robert Mundle. **RC 52376.**

Harrowing account of the 1998 Australian yacht race that encountered hurricane-force winds. Details the havoc wreaked on the fleet of 115 entries, only forty-four of which finished in Hobart, while five sank. Describes the heroic search-and-rescue effort that resulted in winching fifty-five sailors to safety.

Godforsaken Sea: Racing the World's Most Dangerous Waters by Derek Lundy. **RC 50690.**

Depicts the grueling and perilous 27,000-mile Vende'e Globe solo sailing race, which circumnavigates Antarctica in the Southern Ocean. Narrates the 1996 contest through the eyes of the sixteen competitors as they endure fifty-foot waves and hurricane-force winds in the world's most hostile seas.

The Great Hurricane: 1938 by Cherie Burns. **RC 60947.**

Account of the hurricane that ravaged coastal regions of Long Island, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts in September 1938, killing hundreds and causing millions of dollars in damage. Draws on archival sources and survivor testimony to trace the storm's path and reconstruct the harrowing experiences of its victims.

Hurricane Watch: Forecasting the Deadliest Storms on Earth by Bob Sheets. **RC 54368.**

A meteorologist and a science journalist present the history of devastating storms in the United States, giving a scientific explanation of such weather. Includes information on the pioneers of hurricane study and the authors' firsthand experiences during Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

Into Thin Air by Jon Krakauer. **RC 44525.**

A journalist's first-hand report on the ill-fated Mt. Everest expedition of May 1996 in which a freak storm claimed the lives of nine adventurers. Describes the grueling ascent of the climbers, their sense of elation at reaching the peak, and the tragic events that followed. Strong language.

Isaac's Storm by Erik Larson. **RC 48811.**

Galveston, Texas; September 8, 1900. A massive hurricane approaches the city. Isaac Cline, head of the Weather Bureau's Galveston station, fails to receive advance warning due to bureaucratic blundering and scientific snobbery. No evacuation is ordered and more than 8,000 citizens are subsequently lost, including Cline's wife.

Krakatoa: The Day the World Exploded: August 27, 1883 by Simon Winchester. **RC 55879.**

Author of **The Professor and the Madman** (RC 46906) chronicles & the most devastating volcanic event in modern recorded human history," a cataclysmic eruption near Java in the Indian Ocean that killed 36,000 people. Explains some of the disaster's political, religious, economic, psychological, and scientific consequences.

The Measures of a Mountain by Bruce Barcott. **RC 46784.**

Intrigued by Mt. Rainier's dominant presence, Barcott examines its physical attributes, mythology, and psychological impact. More of a bookworm than an athlete, he overcomes his concerns about harsh weather and mountaineering tragedies to assault the summit.

Our Man in Belize by Richard Timothy Conroy. **RC 44751.**

Memoir of an American who served as vice-consul in Belize for two years in the early 1960s. He admits that his accounts of his experiences and the people he met there have "taken on a life of their own." But he does clearly remember the devastating hurricane of 1961. Some strong language.

The Perfect Storm by Sebastian Junger. **RC 55879.**

Recounts the 1991 loss at sea of the New England fishing boat Andrea Gail in the "perfect storm" that resulted from the explosive convergence of several high-energy weather fronts. Depicts a fisherman's harsh life and gives a likely account of the vessel's final hour before sinking. Vividly portrays failed rescue efforts and people drowning.

The Raging Sea: The Powerful Account of the Worst Tsunami in U. S. History by Dennis M. Powers. **RC 60836.**

Professor describes the tragedy of Good Friday, March 27, 1964, when four waves spawned by an Alaskan earthquake hit Crescent City, California, and devastated the town. Interviews survivors and reveals tales of heroism and grief as eleven people lost their lives and the area was ravaged.

Rising Tide: The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 and How It Changed America by John M. Barry. **RC 46388.**

An account of the catastrophic flood of 1927, in which at least one thousand Americans were killed and another million displaced by the swollen Mississippi River. Traces early engineering efforts at river control, which set the stage for the disaster. Explores the flood's far-reaching social, political, and economic implications.

The Scariest Place On Earth: Eye to Eye with Hurricanes by David E. Fisher. **RC 44251.**

A first-hand account of Hurricane Andrew, "the worst disaster ever to hit the United States," which struck south Florida in 1992. Explains hurricanes: what they are, how they develop, and what can be done to protect against them.

Second Ascent: The Story of Hugh Herr by Alison Osius. **RC 35984.**

By seventeen, Hugh Herr's main focus in life was mountain climbing, a sport in which he was already breaking records. Then tragedy struck: while climbing, Hugh and a friend became disoriented and were lost in the snow for days. Hugh's frostbitten lower legs were amputated, and he battled depression by training himself to climb again and by designing artificial limb parts.

South: A Memoir of the Endurance Voyage by Ernest Shackleton. **RC 48292.**

Shackleton's 1914-1917 account of how his plans to lead the first trans-Antarctic expedition became a survival saga after his ship, Endurance was blocked and finally crushed by pack-ice. Describes the courage of men facing extremely harsh conditions. Covers Shackleton's valiant 800-mile trip in an open boat to bring back rescuers.

When the Mississippi Ran Backwards: Empire, Intrigue, Murder, and the New Madrid Earthquakes by Jay Feldman. **RC 60365.**

Chronicles a series of catastrophic earthquakes in the Mississippi River Valley from 1811 to 1812 that devastated the New Madrid frontier settlement and temporarily reversed the Mississippi's flow. Links the seismologic activity to the Indian Wars, a slave murder committed by Thomas Jefferson's nephews, and the War of 1812.

The White Death: Tragedy and Heroism in an Avalanche Zone by McKay Jenkins. **RC 51455.**

Relates how five young mountaineers died in an avalanche while attempting a winter ascent on Mount Cleveland in Glacier National Park in 1969. Their story is interspersed with facts about the history and causes of avalanches.

Many Manly Men Doing Manly Things

24 Hours by Greg Iles. **RC 52361.**

For five years in a row, a trio of child abductors has been successful at "the perfect kidnapping." They strike where the child lives, the parents do not tell the police, and the ransom is paid. Now, for the sixth time, they steal a doctor's child. This time, however, they have encountered a family to be reckoned with. Violence and strong language.

America by Stephen Coonts. **RC 53012.**

A nuclear powered submarine is hijacked by terrorists not long after an antiballistic missile defense system satellite disappears. An attack is launched on Washington, D.C., and New York City. Rear Admiral Jake Grafton heads the rescue team. Violence and strong language.

Angel of Death by Jack Higgins. **RC 40062.**

Brigadier Charles Ferguson and former IRA terrorist Sean Dillon are up against an international terrorist group called January 30, now working in Ireland. They do not realize that the group is fictitious, made up by Russian Intelligence officers to explain away some deaths. And the Russians have unlikely assassins: a Northern Ireland Under-Secretary of State and a noted actress. Strong Language and violence.

Battle Flag by Bernard Cornwell. **RC 42564.**

Nate Starbuck, Bostonian turned Confederate officer, serves under Stonewall Jackson during the hectic summer of 1862. Overcoming both personal and military challenges, Nate distinguishes himself in a series of actions leading up to the climactic and bloody Second Battle of Manassas.

The Bear and the Dragon by Tom Clancy. **RC 50854.**

Newly elected United States president Jack Ryan is quickly embroiled in complex political situations with cataclysmic implications. Among them, the discovery of vast gold and oil resources in Siberia, which attracts the covetous attention of China, could lead to dire consequences. Some strong language.

Black Hawk Down: A Story of Modern War by Mark Bowden.
RC 48028.

Recreates the United States military operation in Mogadishu, Somalia, on October 3 and 4, 1993, when 99 American soldiers were surrounded and trapped. Describes how the planned one-hour mission turned into an overnight fight for survival. Based on journalists' interviews with the soldiers, helicopter pilots, and Somali clan leaders. Strong language.

Black Sunday by Thomas Harris. **RC 53082.**

To protest American policies in the Middle East, a fanatical terrorist group plots the annihilation of 80,000 Super Bowl spectators. Their prime weapon is Michael Lander, a deranged ex-navy pilot seeking revenge, and his handler, beautiful assassin Dahlia Lyad. Some explicit descriptions of sex, some violence, and some strong language.

Blue Gold by Clive Cussler. **RC 50937.**

When National Underwater and Marine Agency (NUMA) investigators Kurt Austin and Joe Zavala hit a pod of dead whales during a boat race, it sets off an inquiry that leads to an eco-extortionist's plot to control the world's fresh water supply.. Some strong language.

Bringing out the Dead by Joe Connelly. **RC 46599.**

Chronicles two hectic days in the life of paramedic Frank Pierce, as he steers his ambulance through New York's streets to the aid of people who experience heart attacks, drug overdoses, and other crises. In saving their lives, Pierce seeks relief from the pain in his own.

Brules by Henry Combs. **RC 39642.**

Brules relates that back in 1867, when he was 18, he found himself an honest woman named Michelle. Only trouble was, he had to kill his boss to claim her. From then on, they are on the run until a group of Comanches capture and burn her to death. Then Brules, with time out for buffalo hunting and mule driving, sets out for revenge.

Bump and Run by Mike Lupica. **RC 51970.**

Las Vegas wheeler-dealer Jack "Jammer" Molloy inherits the important half of the New York Hawks football franchise when his estranged father dies. But his conniving twin siblings, the National Football League, and potential buyers oppose his ownership. Jack is soon immersed in the politics and economics of professional sports. Strong language.

The Cold Six Thousand by James Ellroy. **RC 52349.**

Las Vegas policeman Wayne Tedrow, Jr., son of a mob-connected union leader, goes to Dallas on November 22, 1963 to kill a black gambler. Things go awry, and for the next five years Tedrow is caught up in a web of conspiracies. Explicit sex, violence, and strong language.

Deal with the Dead by Les Standiford. **RC 52517.**

Miami builder John Deal wins a large contract but later learns of organized crime connections. He also discovers that his late father had custody of a missing fortune. Now the mob, the owner's son, and a corrupt government official are demanding payment. Violence and strong language.

Death Benefits by Thomas Perry. **RC 52527.**

Security advisor Max Stillman takes young insurance analyst John Walker with him to investigate the misconduct of Walker's ex-lover, agent Ellen Snyder. Snyder approved a twelve-million-dollar payout to a bogus claimant and then disappeared. Stillman and Walker crisscross the country unraveling the lucrative scheme. Strong language and some violence.

Eater by Gregory Benford. **RC 52485.**

Long before there was time, a black hole became a wandering entity, feeding on asteroids and planets and destroying everything in its path. When it reaches the edge of our solar system, three scientists must prevent it from annihilating Earth and its inhabitants.

The Fan Club by Irving Wallace. **RC 52712.**

Four ordinary men meet in a bar and conspire to physically possess the world's most coveted and worshipped love goddess, actress Sharon Fields. The four proceed with their plan. But they do not know the real Sharon! Explicit descriptions of sex, strong language, and some violence.

Force 12 by James Stewart Thayer. **RC 53208.**

Computer billionaire Rex Wyman designs a yacht to sail strictly by computer. His programmer girlfriend Gwen Weld joins him to cross the Pacific, but once in the Bering Sea they realize that a virus is sabotaging the system. Gwen e-mails Jess MacKay, an Alaska National Guard captain, for help.

Headwind by John J. Nance. **RC 52810.**

When an international warrant threatens former American President John Harris, commercial jet pilot Craig Dayton defiantly takes off with Harris on board. While airborne, Harris arranges assistance from disbarred judge Jay Reinhart and a group of World War 2 veterans.

The Hunted by Alan Jacobson. **RC 53079.**

When psychologist Lauren Chambers' husband, Michael, fails to return from a ski trip, she enlists the help of private investigator Nick Bradley. It appears that Michael was injured, has amnesia, and has been told by the FBI that he is an undercover agent. Violence and strong language.

Inca Gold by Clive Cussler. **RC 38872.**

A group of archaeologists is exploring a Peruvian sinkhole and gets in trouble. Dirk Pitt happens to be in the neighborhood and comes to their aid. But the rescue simply sets in motion a series of events that find Pitt looking for lost treasure, being captured by a band of art smugglers, and swimming through an underground river. Violence and strong language.

The Kill Artist by Daniel Silva. **RC 52432.**

Israeli spy Gabriel Allon is retired when he is called in on one last case. His Palestinian nemesis, Tariq, is on a mission to derail the Middle East peace talks. Gabriel enlists his former lover, French supermodel Jacqueline Delacroix, to assist him. Some violence and some strong language.

Last of the Breed by Louis L'Amour. **RC 23910.**

As a test pilot for experimental aircraft, United States Air Force Major Joseph "Joe Mack" Makatozi, part Sioux, part Cheyenne, is forced down over the Bering Sea by Russians. He must seek safety in the uncharted wilds of Siberia, pursued by Russian Intelligence officer Colonel Zamatev and by a Yakut tracker.

The Lieutenants by W.E.B. Griffin. **RC 23292.**

This is a novel about the intertwined lives of professional army men and their families from the last years of World War 2 through 1950. The action revolves mostly around Lieutenant Robert Bellmon, a prisoner of the Germans, who later escapes. Strong language and explicit descriptions of sex.

Little Big Man by Thomas Berger. **RC 32463.**

The Return of the Little Big Man by Thomas Berger. **RC 48544.**

The memoirs of Jack Crab, 111-year-old ex-cowboy who claims he is the only survivor of Custer's Last Stand. Wild Bill Hickok, Wyatt Earp, Calamity Jane, and many other characters of the Old West appear in this humorous, sometimes absurd re-creation of the West "as it was." The second book takes Crab from Deadwood, Dakota to Europe and back as it continues his memoirs.

The Long Lavender Look by John D. MacDonald. **RC 46650.**

Travis McGee is framed for murder in a small Florida town and must find the real killer to clear his name

The Mark of the Assassin by Daniel Silva. **RC 46012.**

An Arab terrorist shoots down a commercial plane near Long Island, conveniently advancing a business scheme to manufacture antimissile systems. But CIA agent Michael Osbourne takes serious personal risks to try to learn who was really responsible for the attack.

Money, Money, Money by Ed McBain. **RC 52928.**

A lion almost kills Detective Steve Carella when he tries to remove a woman's body from the zoo den. Carella and Fat Ollie Weeks uncover drug smugglers, counterfeit money, hit women, and Arab terrorists while pursuing the case. They also face off with the treasury department. Violence and strong language.

The Mysterious Island by Jules Verne. **RC 56680.**

Adventure story about five men and a dog who are carried out to sea in a balloon and land on a mysterious island. The resourcefulness of the castaways is the theme of this ingenious work.

The Naked and the Dead by Norman Mailer. **RC 53839.**

This is the compelling story of an American platoon on a Japanese-held island during World War 2.

One Police Plaza by William J. Caunitz. **RC 51265.**

New York City police detective Dan Malone becomes suspicious of the murder of a low-level clerk who inexplicably had access to an elite club. When Malone discovers other odd contradictions in the victim's background, he is removed from the case but decides to solve the crime alone. Strong language.

The Paperboy by Pete Dexter. **RC 40019.**

Jack James narrates this tale of his newspaper family's involvement in an effort to prove Hillary Van Wetter innocent of the murder of Sheriff Thurmond Call. Ward James, now a reporter in Miami, returns to Moat County, Florida, with his writing partner Yardley Acheman, at the request of Charlotte Bless, who has fallen in love with the accused man. As they investigate, they discover much about their own family.

The Program by Stephen White **RC 52590.**

Single mom Peyton Francis is lucky to meet former hit man Carl Luppó in a witness protection program, because she is in desperate need of his expertise. Boulder psychologist Alan Gregory and his pregnant wife, Assistant District Attorney Lauren Gregory, risk danger by offering additional help. Violence and strong language.

Rolling Thunder by Mark Berent. **RC 30721.**

This is the story of three men and the war in Vietnam. Air Force Captain Court Bannister is trying to prove to himself that he is as good as his famous father. Lieutenant Toby Parker is a starry-eyed kid until he joins an intelligence unit and loses his innocence. And Colonel Wolf Lochert, tough and all business, volunteers to rescue a downed pilot and discovers a trap. Violence, strong language, and some descriptions of sex.

Separation of Power by Vince Flynn. **RC 53501.**

Israel has discovered that Saddam Hussein is close to entering the nuclear arms race, and they have vowed to stop the Iraqi madman before he can get his hands on the ultimate weapon. With the Middle East teetering on the precipice of chaos and devastation, the President of the United States is forced to act. The CIA's top counter terrorism operative, Mitch Rapp, is given the mission. But the window for action on this crucial mission is incredibly tight. Israel has given the United States only two weeks to take the nuclear weapons out. After that, they will do whatever it takes to destroy the weapons themselves. With World War 3 looming, Rapp races against time and impossible odds. Violence and strong language.

Special Ops by W.E.B. Griffin. **RC 51990.**

The United States military and the CIA plot to foil Che Guevara's attempt to spread Communism in the mid-1960's Congo. The Green Berets push him out of Africa but he turns up in Bolivia, where he dies under mysterious circumstances. Strong language and some violence.

Thin Air by Robert B. Parker. **RC 40561.**

Spenser's longtime friend, police detective Frank Belson, has sought out Spenser because he needs someone who will understand his problem. His young bride, Lisa St. Claire, has disappeared without a trace. At first, Belson wants no help, but after Belson is shot, Spenser begins searching for Lisa. He uncovers a rather unsavory past and learns that Lisa is being held by her sociopathic ex-lover. Strong language.

The Third Option by Vince Flynn. **RC 53036.**

CIA agent Mitch Rapp is sent on a mission to Germany to assassinate a businessman selling arms to Saddam Hussein. When the people who are assisting Rapp try to kill him, he goes undercover to investigate political intrigue. Some violence and some strong language.

Transfer of Power by Vince Flynn. **RC 50675.**

The CIA learns that foreign terrorists imminently intend to assault the White House. The Secret Service has only seconds to usher the president into his bunker, leaving others to be taken hostage. As officials dither, a CIA counter terrorism operative mounts a rescue. Some violence and some strong language.

Valhalla Rising by Clive Cussler. **RC 52893.**

Dirk Pitt, on board an oceanographic survey vessel, helps rescue passengers from a luxury cruise ship that mysteriously catches fire on its maiden voyage. One of the survivors is Kelly Egan who has managed to save her father's papers, only to have her life threatened. Some violence and some strong language.

Vertical Run by Joseph R. Garber. **RC 42062.**

After jogging to work, executive vice president Dave Elliot is dressing in his office on the forty fifth floor when the company president comes in to shoot him. Elliot escapes, only to find the building is swarming with men who all have orders to kill him. His Vietnam training keeps him alive and hidden, but unless Elliot can figure out why he has been targeted, he may not survive. Strong language and violence.

The Virginian by Owen Wister. **RC 36421.**

The story of the Virginian is told by an easterner who, while visiting a Wyoming ranch, is impressed by the slow-talking, quick-witted, southern cowboy. Things heat up when another easterner arrives on the scene, the new schoolteacher, young Molly Wood. The Virginian falls for Molly and tries to convince her to reciprocate, but his irksome feud with a surly ranch hand threatens their relationship.

Warrior Class by Dale Brown. **RC 53032.**

General Patrick MacLanahan is ready to battle shady businessman Pavel Kazakov during a mission to rescue a spy from Russia. Kazakov wants to build an oil pipeline through the Balkans. But MacLanahan's hands are tied by a new American president, an avowed isolationist. Violence and strong language.

Sea Stories

Caine Mutiny by Herman Wouk. **RC 31442.**

During World War 2, the crew of the *Caine* mutinies against Captain Queeg, accusing him of incompetence. The novel reaches its climax during the court-martial when they must prove their charges.

Master and Commander by Patrick O'Brian. **RC 33485.**

Historical sea tale chronicles the adventures of Jack Aubrey of the Royal Navy, master and commander of the brig *Sophie*, as he and his crew battle the French and Spanish in the Mediterranean during the Napoleonic wars.

Midshipman Bolitho by Alexander Kent. **RC 49764.**

Only 16 but already a veteran of four years in the king's navy, Richard Bolitho joins his second ship in 1771. Its mission is to investigate the brutal slave trade on Africa's west coast. This proves to be much more perilous than he expected. Some violence.

The Lion at Sea by Max Hennessy. **RC 51322.**

The bold adventures of midshipman Kelly Maguire of the Royal Navy during World War 1. He begins the war aboard an obsolete battle cruiser and is captured by the Turks after Gallipoli. Escaping, Maguire is later involved in the Battle of Jutland. Some violence and some strong language.

Mutiny on the Bounty by Charles Nordhoff. **RC 57656.**

Based on the actual mutiny that took place on board the HMS *Bounty*, which sailed from England in 1787 bound for Tahiti. The story recounts the sailors' rebellion against the brutal captain, and the consequences of their actions.

Run Silent, Run Deep by Edward L. Beach. **RC 26547.**

This novel about a submarine war patrol that pursues a Japanese ship in the Pacific Ocean is based on the author's World War 2 experiences.

Mr. Midshipman Hornblower by C.S. Forester. **RC 26915.**

The early career of Horatio Hornblower of the British Royal Navy is traced in a series of adventurous episodes. They illustrate the quick thinking, brilliant intuition, and decisiveness characteristic of our hero, and leave him with the rank of lieutenant.

H.M.S. Ulysses by Alistair MacLean. **RC 32261.**

A story of naval action in the North Atlantic during World War 2. In addition to the tense situation that existed when Admiral Starr was sent to investigate a mutiny on the *Ulysses*, the crew faced the dangers of wolf packs, squadrons of German bombers and the terrible cold.

The Cruel Sea by Nicholas Monsarrat. **RC 25171.**

Men at sea during the World War 2 Battle of the North Atlantic are pitted against a relentless, merciless sea in a never-to-be-forgotten struggle. Strong language.

Sea Swept Stories

Our Man in Mongoa by Alex Alben. **RC 27276.**

A comic spy thriller. Walter Peabody, a prematurely bald Stanford graduate and CIA analyst, is assigned to the South Seas island kingdom of Mongoa to investigate a mysterious mining operation. Fortunately, Walter is a competent and enterprising agent, for the exotic island is alive with more than just lavalava dancers and man-eating sharks. While Mongoa's young monarch blissfully leafs through L.L. Bean catalogs, the world's superpowers and members of the royal family struggle and scheme.

Mrs. Chippy's Last Expedition : The Remarkable Journal of Shackleton's Polar-Bound Cat by Caroline Alexander. **RC 46193.**

The whimsical chronicle of Mrs. Chippy, a male cat that sailed with Sir Ernest Shackleton's 1914 expedition to Antarctica. Recounts the perils of sailing on frozen seas, the ordeal of being stranded when the ship was crushed by ice, and the crew's miraculous escape and survival.

Night of Error by Desmond Bagley. **RC 25686.**

A thriller about a geological treasure hunt in the South Seas. Mike, an English oceanographer, suspects that his brother, Mark, was murdered while prospecting in the South Pacific. From his brother's diary, Mike surmises that the motive may be the rich deposit of manganese nodules Mark found. With some tough pals and a wealthy mining investor, Mike sails off to find the thugs who killed his brother and to search for the treasure. Some strong language.

With These Hands by Louis L'Amour. **RC 55260.**

Eleven action-filled stories set in such places as Hollywood, the South Seas, and Japan. The characters range from boxers, cowboys, and detectives to pilots and sea captains. In the title piece, the sole survivor of a plane crash in the Arctic wilderness of Alaska summons the will to stay alive.

Raging Rivers by Taylor Brady. **RC 36136.**

After murdering the town bully, Katherine Carlyle sets off to find her pioneering brother. The trip soon turns nightmarish when the flatboat is swamped by a storm, the men in the party are killed by lightning, and the remaining women and children are hounded by both Shawnee and pirates. Strong-willed Katherine, with the assistance of mountain man Byrd Kincaid, is determined to save the group. Strong language and violence.

Five against the Sea: A True Story of Courage and Survival by Ron Arias. **RC 32880.**

On January 19, 1988, five fishermen set out in the *Cairo III*, a 29-foot craft, from a Costa Rican village. Six days later, after a particularly good catch, a sudden storm battered their small ship and drove them off course. This is the story of their fight to survive 142 days adrift, and their families' attempts to get the government to search for the ship.

The Perfect Storm: A True Story of Men against the Sea by Sebastian Junger. **RC 44751.**

Recounts the 1991 loss at sea of the New England fishing boat *Andrea Gail* in the "perfect storm" that resulted from the explosive convergence of several high energy weather fronts. Depicts a fisherman's harsh life and gives a likely account of the vessel's final hour before sinking. Vividly portrays failed rescue efforts and people drowning.

Ship Disasters

Abandon Ship! The Saga of the U.S.S. Indianapolis, the Navy's Greatest Sea Disaster by Richard F. Newcomb. **RC 51773.**

Originally published in 1958. Newcomb describes the ordeal faced by survivors of the USS *Indianapolis*, which was sunk by a Japanese torpedo in 1945. He also recounts the court-martial of the ship's captain, Charles McVay. In an afterword, journalist Peter Maas describes later research that cleared McVay of all charges.

Batavia's Graveyard by Mike Dash. **RC 55626.**

Relates the historical events following the shipwreck of the Dutch merchant vessel *Batavia* on a coral reef near Australia in 1629. Describes how a mad heretic wreaked havoc and slaughter on the survivors, on a waterless island known now as Batavia 's Graveyard. Some violence.

The Big E: The Story of the USS Enterprise by Edward P. Stafford. **RC 52020.**

History of the battles fought in the Pacific by this naval aircraft carrier and its crew during World War 2. Reports on participation at Santa Cruz, Kwajalein, Philippine Sea, Leyte Gulf, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa, among other sites.

Blind Man's Bluff by Sherry Sontag. **RC 47258.**

Accounts of the development of Cold War-era submarine spying on the Soviet Union by Americans. Tales about the people who made it happen, like the naval officer who figured out how to tap underwater communication cables. Includes new information on the mysterious sinking of the USS *Scorpion* in 1968.

Fatal Storm: The Inside Story of the Tragic Sydney-Hobart Race by Robert Mundle. **RC 52376.**

Harrowing account of the 1998 Australian yacht race that encountered hurricane-force winds. Details the havoc wreaked on the fleet of 115 entries, only 44 of which finished in Hobart, while five sank. Describes the heroic search-and-rescue effort that resulted in winching 55 sailors to safety.

50 North: An Atlantic Battleground by Alan Easton. **RC 34146.**

A Canadian naval officer recounts the drama played out on the North Atlantic between the Allied fleet and German U-boats during World War 2. The battles wore many faces: confrontation with the enemy; personal frustration with equipment failures; loneliness, fear, and sorrow over human loss; and powerlessness in the face of bad weather and turbulent seas. Easton reveals the fortitude and endurance of the heroic seamen.

In Harm's Way: The Sinking of the USS Indianapolis and the Extraordinary Story of Its Survivors by Doug Stanton. **RC 52097.**

Recounts the events of July 30, 1945, when a Japanese submarine torpedoed the USS *Indianapolis*, and the subsequent failure of the navy to begin a timely rescue of its crew. Relates the survivors' tales of the ordeal and the tragic destiny of its captain years later.

In the Heart of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex by Nathaniel Philbrick. **RC 50271.**

Relying mainly on the cabin boy's journal discovered in 1960, the author recounts the disastrous 1819 voyage of the whaling ship *Essex*. He describes the attack of an 85-foot bull sperm whale, and the ensuing starvation, dehydration, and cannibalism that befell the shipwrecked survivors.

Lusitania: An Epic Tragedy by Diana Preston. **RC 55923.**

British historian and author recounts the sinking of the English passenger liner *Lusitania* by a German submarine on May 7, 1915, off the coast of Ireland. Describes the catastrophe that caused the death of almost 1,200 men, women, and children and the subsequent political consequences.

Sailors to the End: The Deadly Fire on the U.S.S. Forrestal and the Heroes Who Fought It by Gregory A. Freeman. **RC 55661.**

On July 29, 1967, off the coast of Vietnam an errant rocket on the USS *Forrestal* hits the plane piloted by future senator John McCain. Describes the crew's heroic efforts to save the ship (although 134 sailors died) and the reasons for the disaster. Some strong language.

Strike Able-Peter: The Stranding and Salvage of the USS Missouri by John A. Butler. **RC 50726.**

An account of the January 1950 grounding of the USS *Missouri*, the ship aboard which the Japanese surrendered in World War 2. At the time the mishap was a major news event and naval embarrassment. Reconstructs the cause of the Chesapeake Bay stranding and the subsequent salvaging effort.

The Terrible Hours: The Man behind the Greatest Submarine Rescue by Peter Maas. **RC 49223.**

On May 23, 1939, the *Squalus* submarine failed to resurface from a test dive and settled 243 feet down on the ocean floor off Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Maas provides accounts of the 33 survivors and their families, and of Charles Momsen, who created the device used in their rescue.

A Time to Die: The Untold Story of the Kursk Tragedy by Robert Moore. **RC 57027.**

British television correspondent recreates the sinking of a Russian nuclear submarine in the Arctic Circle on August 12, 2000, and the disastrous subsequent rescue efforts. Analyzes the failure of Vladimir Putin's government to enlist timely outside help.

Space Exploration

Almost Heaven: The Story of Women in Space by Bettyann Kevles. **RC 58143.**

Account of forty women of diverse international cultures and various ages struggling to enter American and Soviet space programs during the Cold War and later. From extensive interviews and research, Yale historian chronicles legal, institutional, and social developments that eventually eased women's participation in the secretive, male dominated field.

Apollo, the Race to the Moon by Charles A. Murray and Catherine Bly Cox. **RC 32341.**

Presents the inside story of how a group of Americans meet the challenge to land men on the moon and return them safely to earth. It is a human story of engineers, presidents, astronauts, flight directors, and all the unheralded people from the launch pad to mission control. It is also a scientific story that begins with a space program in chaos, and proceeds from tragedy to triumph.

Before Lift-Off: The Making of a Space Shuttle Crew by Henry S.F. Cooper. **RC 27731.**

Portrayal of the lives of astronauts being trained for a mission in 1984. Relates the complicated tasks they have to learn, the comradeship that develops among team members, and the dangers the crews face. Discusses the tragic "Challenger" accident as well as the exhilarating moments of successful missions.

Challenger: The Final Voyage by Richard S. Lewis. **RC 29863.**

From the prelaunch banter among the crew to the explosion over the Atlantic, the final moments of the space shuttle "Challenger" are chronicled by Lewis. He also discusses the salvage efforts, the investigation and findings of the Rogers Commission, and the reorganization of NASA and the shuttle program.

Comm Check: The Final Flight of Shuttle Columbia by Michael Cabbage and William Harwood. **RC 60047.**

Journalists chronicle the last mission of the space shuttle Columbia that disintegrated upon re-entry on February 1, 2003, killing seven astronauts. Behind-the-scenes account details the accident, believed to be caused by wing damage from foam insulation debris. Covers the subsequent investigation and the tragedy's repercussions for the shuttle program.

Countdown: A History of Space Flight by T.A. Heppenheimer. **RC 46019.**

A chronicle of international efforts at space exploration since the 1930s. Describes the early experiments and breakthroughs, key personalities whose vision and work advanced the science of space flight, the technologies that made it possible, and the obstacles that were overcome in conquering the frontier of space.

Dragonfly: NASA and the Crisis aboard the MIR by Bryan Burrough. **RC 48930.**

An investigation of the series of accidents on the space station Mir during joint missions between Americans and Russians in the late 1990s. Reveals details of the mishaps and looks at the impact of culture clashes and differing program management techniques. Based on transcripts and logs of air-to-ground communications and interviews with participants.

Fallen Astronauts: Heroes Who Died Reaching for the Moon by Colin Burgess, Kate Doolan and Bert Vis. **RC 60535.**

Profiles the eight American astronauts who lost their lives before the 1969 lunar landing of Apollo 11, three in a well-publicized launch pad fire, four in aircraft accidents, and another in an automobile crash. Also commemorates their counterparts, the Russian cosmonauts who died during the superpowers' space race.

Flight: My Life in Mission Control by Christopher C. Kraft. **RC 53219.**

NASA's first flight director offers an insider's view of the early days of the space program in the 1960s. He describes past achievements such as the first manned launch with Alan Shepard, and the glitches, near disasters, and successes, culminating with the astronauts walking on the moon. Some strong language.

For Spacious Skies: The Uncommon Journey of a Mercury Astronaut by M. Scott Carpenter and Kris Stoever. **RC 57329.**

Autobiography of one of the seven Project Mercury astronauts. Carpenter revisits his childhood, naval aviation training, and selection to NASA's landmark program. He details his 1962 three-orbit mission aboard Aurora 7 and his reactions that averted disaster upon reentry. Co-written with his daughter.

Genesis: The Story of Apollo 8: The First Manned Flight to another World by Robert Zimmerman. **RC 49671.**

Recounts the flight of Apollo 8, the first manned vehicle to venture beyond Earth's orbit. Provides personal biographies of the three astronauts and assesses their accomplishment in the context of the Cold War and the turbulent political events of 1968.

Gus Grissom: The Lost Astronaut by Ray E. Boomhower. **RC 60634.**

Biography of one of the seven original Mercury astronauts, Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom. Follows Grissom's selection by NASA in 1959 and his missions in space. Describes the catastrophic fire in the Apollo 1 spacecraft that killed him, Ed White, and Roger Chaffee on January 27, 1967 at Cape Kennedy.

Hubble: The Mirror on the Universe by Robin Kerrod. **RC 58020.**

Astronomer explores the nature and evolution of the universe based on the discoveries of the Hubble Space Telescope launched in 1990. Describes the structure of galaxies, the life cycles of stars, and the planets in Earth's solar system. Includes background information on the Hubble project.

I Touch the Future: The Story of Christa McAuliffe by Robert T. Hohler. **RC 25097.**

Portrait of the teacher-astronaut written by a journalist who came to know her well during the last months of her life, before the tragic space-shuttle explosion. Hohler reaches all the way back to her childhood, then follows her through adolescence, marriage, career, and training for flight as a member of the "Challenger" crew.

Jupiter Odyssey: the Story of NASA's Galileo Mission by David M. Harland. **RC 53864.**

Focuses on the spaceship Galileo's journey through the solar system. Discusses its observations of Venus, the Earth and its moon, a pair of asteroids, and a comet's crash into Jupiter. Provides insight into the technical challenges and triumphs of this mission, launched in 1989.

The Last Man on the Moon: Astronaut Eugene Cernan and America's Race in Space by Eugene Cernan and Don Davis. **RC 50403.**

This memoir of a space pioneer describes his personal experiences during his years with NASA, especially the flights of Gemini 9, Apollo 10, and Apollo 17. Cernan recalls the technical problems, his relations with fellow astronauts, and some family repercussions, but mostly the thrill of being in space and walking on the moon.

Liftoff: The Story of America's Adventure in Space by Michael Collins. **RC 30987.**

A history of America's space program beginning with Mercury and continuing through Gemini, Apollo, the Space Shuttle, and plans for a space station. Collins, commander of the Apollo 11 Lunar Orbiter, interviewed many of the astronauts and their comments contribute to an understanding of the space program. There are also answers to many trivia questions that nag armchair astronauts.

Light This Candle: the Life and Times of Alan Shepard, America's First Spaceman by Neal Thompson. **RC 59129.**

Journalist describes how NASA chose Mercury Seven's Alan Shepard (1923-1998) as the first American in space. Drawing on exclusive access to private papers and interviews, Thompson portrays Shepard as impatient, driven, womanizing, and competitive. Details his life and career before, during, and after the space program. Strong language.

Lost Moon: The Perilous Voyage of Apollo 13 by Jim Lovell & Jeffrey Kluger. **RC 40691.**

Apollo 13 was to have been the fifth mission to the moon. But two days into the trip, on April 13, 1970, the oxygen tank exploded in the command module, placing the three astronauts in grave danger. Lovell describes those terrifying days as astronauts, contractors, and Mission Control struggled to bring Apollo 13 safely back to earth. Basis for the movie Apollo 13.

The Mercury 13: The Untold Story of Thirteen American Women and the Dream of Space Flight by Martha Ackmann. **RC 57609.**

Professor relates the experiences of thirteen female pilots who underwent secret testing for potential inclusion in the U.S. space program during the 1960s. Using historical research and firsthand interviews, Ackmann follows Jerrie Cobb, Wally Funk, and others through the selection process, barrage of trials, and battle against gender discrimination.

Mission Jupiter: The Spectacular Journey of the Galileo Spacecraft by Daniel Fischer. **RC 57435.**

Award-winning German columnist describes the landmark discoveries of NASA's Galileo space probe, which reached Jupiter, after passing by Venus and two asteroids, in December 1995, more than six years after liftoff. Fischer provides mission history and specifications, focusing on what the project data revealed about the planet's moons and atmosphere.

Moon Shot: The Inside Story of America's Race to the Moon by Alan B. Shepard and Donald K. Slayton. **RC 38891.**

Mercury Seven astronauts trace the space program from the beginning to the Apollo 11 moon landing on July 20, 1969. This account recalls the astronauts' inside and personal story including planning, training, delays, risks, errors, achievements, scientific experiments, Soviet rivalry turned cooperative effort, and human drama and tragedy. Some strong language.

Rocket Man: Robert H. Goddard and the Birth of the Space Age by David A. Clary. **RC 57549.**

Biography of Massachusetts-born physicist known as the American father of modern rocketry. This balanced portrait of Goddard (1882-1945) not only considers his contributions to space-flight technology, major among them the liquid-fueled rocket, but also his contradictory nature and the rise and fall of his image in the twentieth century.

Space Odyssey: The First Forty Years of Space Exploration by Serge Brunier. **RC 59478.**

French journalist chronicles the landmark achievements of humankind's space ventures from Yuri Gagarin's inaugural flight and Neil Armstrong's first steps on the moon to twenty-first-century Mars probes. Discusses Russian and American missions, technological developments, the International Space Station, challenges posed by deep space exploration, and more.

Space Shuttle: The First 20 Years edited by Tony Reichhardt for Air & Space and Smithsonian magazine. **RC 55789.**

Seventy-seven astronauts who lived and worked on reusable orbiters from 1981 to 2001 reminisce about lift-off, weightless conditions, and reentry.

Taking Science to the Moon: Lunar Experiments and the Apollo Program by Donald A. Beattie. **RC 55465.**

Insider's view of how NASA staffers banded with scientists to expand the research activities of the moon landing, an unprecedented undertaking. Discusses the behind-the-scenes maneuvering leading to Project Apollo's scientific achievements, which enriched knowledge not only of the Moon but of the planet Earth.

Spies and Espionage

Absolute Friends by John Le Carré. **RC 57589.**

Unassuming Bavarian tour guide Ted Mundy is actually a retired British double agent. After September 11, 2001, old friend and former colleague Sasha contacts him with a new mission: to stop an impending war in Iraq and become very rich in the process. Strong language and some violence.

Avenger by Frederick Forsyth. **RC 57280.**

New Jersey lawyer Calvin Dexter, a former Vietnam "tunnel rat," becomes a secret assassin after his daughter's murder. He is hired by billionaire Steve Edmond whose idealistic grandson is killed in Bosnia by Serbian warlord Zoran Zilic. But the CIA doesn't want Zilic dead. Violence and some strong language.

Blindfold Game by Dana Stabenow. **RC 60929.**

A hijacked Russian freighter sails into the Bering Sea, where it is intercepted by the Coast Guard cutter USS Sojourner Truth. A CIA analyst investigating sales of black market plutonium realizes that a terrorist attack is underway in Alaska. Violence, strong language, and some descriptions of sex.

The Broker by John Grisham. **RC 58930.**

The CIA pressures lame-duck president Arthur Morgan into releasing jailed lobbyist Joel Backman, who obtained stolen satellite software six years before. The Agency spirits Backman to Italy to use him for bait, leaks his whereabouts--and waits to see who kills him. Some violence and some strong language.

By Order of the President by W.E.B. Griffin **RC 59560.**

Seeking answers after an airplane hijacking in Angola, the U.S. president sends to Africa special forces Major Charley Castillo, currently executive assistant to the secretary of homeland security. Castillo makes allies and enemies while uncovering the attackers' diabolical intentions. Strong language, some descriptions of sex, and some violence.

Code to Zero by Ken Follett. **RC 51273.**

In January 1958, as the U.S. prepares to launch its answer to Soviet satellite Sputnik, key space scientist Luke Lucas wakes up in a public toilet with a hangover and amnesia. Luke must reconstruct his identity in order to thwart a sabotage plot, and the clock is ticking. Some strong language.

The Company: A Novel of the CIA by Robert Littell. **RC 54056.**

In 1950, Yale graduate Jack McAuliffe is recruited by Harvey "the Sorcerer" Torriti to join the CIA along with attorney "Ebby" Ebbitt and Leo Kritzky. Jack sees action in East Germany, Hungary, Cuba, Afghanistan, and Russia while searching for a treasonous mole. Violence, strong language, and some descriptions of sex.

Fade by Kyle Mills. **RC 60790.**

Arab American Salam al Fayed, called "Fade", is an ex-navy SEAL who was treated shabbily by the military. Therefore, his initial reaction is negative when former colleague Matt Egan approaches Fade for a Homeland Security assignment. But the two soon begin an undercover operation in the Middle East. Violence, strong language, and some descriptions of sex.

The Firefly by Peter T. Deutermann. **RC 59548.**

Before the upcoming presidential inauguration, retired but reactivated secret service agent "Swamp" Morgan investigates arson at a Washington, D.C., cosmetic surgery clinic serving mysterious foreigners late at night. An unknown patient undergoing an identity change survives the fire, but disappears. Morgan fears an imminent terrorist bombing. Violence and some strong language.

Money for Nothing by Donald E. Westlake. **RC 56096.**

After cashing mysterious \$1,000 monthly checks for seven years, New York ad executive Josh Redmont discovers that he's a sleeper spy for the former Soviet Union. When ordered to assassinate an eastern European politician, Josh tries to find an escape from his predicament and to save his family. Some violence.

Paranoia by Joseph Finder. **RC 57827.**

When Adam Cassidy, a low-level employee of Wyatt Telecommunications, is caught rerouting funds, he receives two options--face embezzlement charges or become a spy at Trion Systems, Wyatt's largest competitor. Risking exposure, Adam infiltrates Trion but ultimately finds his loyalties tested. Strong language, some explicit descriptions of sex, and some violence.

The Road to Armageddon by Larry Collins. **RC 59243.**

Disgraced CIA operative Jim Duffy is summoned back to the agency when reports surface that Iranian terrorists may have acquired Soviet nuclear weapons. Duffy's search for answers leads him to London, where he questions the beautiful widow of a recently assassinated Mideast businessman. Violence and strong language.

Rules of the Game by Ted Allbeury. **RC 56428.**

British intelligence officer Robert Thornton is sent to find a missing agent who disappeared on assignment to kidnap a psychic East German girl. Thornton encounters obstruction from his own agency, CIA and KGB counterplots, and a man playing by his own rules. Some descriptions of sex and some strong language.

Secret Sanction by Brian Haig. **RC 53151.**

Army lawyer Major Sean Drummond is assigned to investigate the massacre of thirty-five Serbs by a U.S. Special Forces team in Kosovo. Drummond and defense attorney Captain Lisa Morrow interrogate the Green Berets and uncover secret missions, a mutiny, and conspiracies that lead to murder. Violence and strong language.

The Shadows of Power by James W. Huston. **RC 57138.**

When Lieutenant Stovic is called a hero for shooting down an Algerian fighter plane, the enraged brother of the slain pilot, a student in the U.S., turns to terrorism to exact revenge. CIA agent Rathman and National Security Advisor Sarah St. John work to uncover the plot. Some violence and some strong language.

The Sigma Protocol by Robert Ludlum. **RC 53295.**

International financier Ben Hartman is investigating the murder of his twin brother when Anna Navarro of the U.S. Justice Department saves him from an assassin. The two team up to uncover the secrets behind the Sigma Corporation, founded in 1945 by German capitalists for unknown purposes. Violence and strong language.

Sleeper Spy by William Safire. **RC 42851.**

The cold war is past and the Russian government has lost track of a sleeper agent the KGB long ago placed in the U.S. to invest a fortune in capital markets. Not only is cash-strapped Moscow out to recover the billions invested, but so is a veteran American newsman with an ingenious plan to lure the sleeper into the open.

Split Second by David Baldacci. **RC 56904.**

Secret Service agent Sean King's career ended with the assassination of a presidential candidate he was guarding. Eight years later, Sean's past converges with agent Michelle Maxwell, protecting another politician who gets kidnapped, and with former coworker and lover Joan Dillinger investigating that abduction. Michelle, and more murders, convinces Sean the incidents are related. Some violence.

Term Limits by Vince Flynn. **RC 54711.**

After assassinating three powerful and corrupt politicians, a paramilitary group demands that the U.S. president and congress reform the government or face more deaths. Freshman congressman and former marine Michael O'Rourke correctly guesses the identity of the group's leaders and tries to stop them. Violence and strong language.

Tom Clancy's Op-Center: Mission of Honor by Jeff Rovin.
RC 54820.

At the Vatican's urging, Op-Center investigates the kidnapping of a priest in Botswana after Catholic missionaries are ordered to leave. It uncovers a plan to destabilize the government and take over the national diamond mines. So Op-Center finds itself in the middle of an African war. Violence and strong language.

The Watchmen by John Altman. **RC 59463.**

Psychiatrist Louis Finney is encouraged to use aggressive force to interrogate captured Al Qaeda spy Ali Zattout. Finney, however, harbors doubts about such methods and regrets his past government "experiments." Meanwhile a ghost-like assassin tries to penetrate Zattout's high-security cell, leaving carnage along the way. Violence and strong language.

Survivor Stories: Fiction

Airframe by Michael Crichton. **RC 43760.**

The flight of a Norton jet from Hong Kong to Denver ends badly with three dead and more than 50 others injured. Casey Singleton, Norton's quality assurance representative, must determine what caused the mid-air accident before the press crucifies the company and a huge contract is jeopardized. Strong language.

Antarctic Navigation by Elizabeth Arthur. **RC 40601.**

From the time she was a child, Morgan Lamont has wanted to duplicate Robert Falcon Scott's 1912 expedition to the South Pole by using the same route, equipment, and rations Scott used. She wants to prove that Scott's plan could have worked. As she tries, Lamont will cross over the ice by the Antarctic and be changed by it.

Blue at the Mizzen by Patrick O'Brian. **RC 49105.**

After the defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo, Captain Jack Aubrey and Dr. Stephen Maturin are ordered to Chile to help liberate the country from Spain. But half of the crew deserts and the *Surprise* encounters disaster at sea.

A Bridge Too Far by Cornelius Ryan. **RC 44181.**

Recounts the 1944 battle of Arnhem, and the daring Allied airborne assault on Nazi-occupied Holland. The attack, which was intended to capture a crucial bridge and end the war early, resulted in heavy losses and a defeat for the Allies. Companion to **The Longest Day** (RC 38896). Violence.

Captive Passions by Fern Michaels. **RC 35469.**

Sirena Gordez is accompanying her devout sister Isobel to Java for Isobel's arranged marriage to Dutch Regan van der Rhys. When pirates attack their ship, Sirena and a young shipmate are the only survivors. Blaming van der Rhys for the attack, Sirena devises a plan for revenge. Strong language, violence and explicit descriptions of sex.

The Coconut Book by Richard Maynard. **RC 25875.**

A subtle psychological version of the Robinson Crusoe story that captures the trials of a man in isolation, fighting to survive physically and mentally on a sandy, barren island in the South Pacific. Some descriptions of sex.

Dinosaur Planet Survivors by Anne McCaffrey. **RC 29690.**

Forty years after Kai and Varian go into cold sleep to avoid capture by the mutineers who have taken over the planet Ireta, they awake to find things are even worse. Not only are the mutineers still around, but so are their descendants, while space pirates and the alien Theks are headed towards the planet.

The Feather and the Stone by Patricia Shaw. **RC 38564.**

Sibell Delahunty is on her way to Australia when the ship capsizes and her parents are lost. One of a few survivors, she is taken in hand by Irishman Logan Conal, who delivers her to some family friends. Violence, strong language and some descriptions of sex.

Galapagos by Kurt Vonnegut. **RC 23831.**

A quasi-science fiction novel told by the million-year-old ghost of Leon Trotsky Trout, decapitated Vietnam veteran. In his tale, a handful of unlikely castaways on an island in the Galapagos gradually realize they are destined to become the ancestors of the future human race because the rest of the world becomes sterile and dies out.

The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon by Stephen King. **RC 48270.**

While her brother and mother argue up ahead on the Maine hiking trail, nine-year-old Trisha stops to relieve herself and becomes lost for days in the wilderness. Her imaginary conversations with Red Sox relief pitcher Tom Gordon help her cope with the evil thing that is following her. Some strong language.

Hell and Paradise: The Norfolk-Bounty-Pitcairn Saga by Peter Clark. **RC 29798.**

Intriguing history of two Pacific islands, Pictairn and Norfolk. Uninhabited for millions of years, they first knew human settlements in the eighteenth century when the mutinous crew of the HMS *Bounty* found safe harbor there. Includes many anecdotes about the depravity and virtue of human nature.

The Ice Queen by Alice Hoffman. **RC 60190.**

A librarian who feels detached from others casually wishes to be struck by lightning. When her idle request becomes reality, she seeks out another lightning survivor, Lazarus Jones, who was dead for forty minutes but came back to life. Some strong language.

Island by Thomas Perry. **RC 27579.**

An amusing novel of a wily husband-and-wife team who flee with stolen mob money and join forces with a smuggler and an unemployed mercenary to create a Caribbean island haven for tax evaders, gamblers, rich pleasure seekers, and lowlifes. Their utopia prospers for eight years, until aggressive big businesses, invading political organizations, suspicious CIA agents, evil bankers, and some shipwrecked Haitian refugees threaten its survival.

Island of Dr. Moreau by H.G. Wells. **RC 50527.**

A castaway comes to a mysterious island inhabited by grotesque creatures under the control of two scientists. Violence.

Jurassic Park by Michael Crichton. **RC 32018.**

Something is terribly wrong at Jurassic Park on a remote island off the coast of Costa Rica. Visitors and resident are being attacked by strange looking animals that maul them and leave behind a sticky saliva. In reality, dinosaurs cloned and raised by a genetic engineering firm have escaped. Consultants are brought in to solve the problem, but soon everyone is running for dear life. Some strong language and violence.

Longshot by Dick Francis. **RC 31971.**

John Kendall, a fledgling author of survival manuals, struggles to exist in a frigid attic. When the pipes break, he agrees to write a biography of champion racehorse trainer Tremayne Vickers in return for room and board and a small fee. His research into Vicker's life turns up the recent murders of two young women. When John gets close to solving the crimes, the murderer forces him to use his own survival advice. Strong language.

The Lost World by Michael Crichton. **RC 41160.**

This sequel to **Jurassic Park** (RC 32018) is set six years after the dinosaur island park disaster in which humans fought off genetically engineered replicas of prehistoric animals. One survivor of that attack is now a member of a group who returns to the area and meets up with the remaining dinosaurs. Strong language and violence.

Lord of the Flies by William Golding. **RC 48388.**

With horrifying implications, a group of English boys are wrecked on a desert island and have to establish their own system of government.

A Maiden's Grave by Jeffery Deaver. **RC 49072.**

Three escaped prisoners hijack a school bus and take the deaf children and their teachers to a Kansas slaughterhouse. The quickly assembled FBI negotiating team is led by Arthur Potter, who develops an admiration for one of the hostages, deaf teacher Melanie Charrol. Strong language, violence, and some explicit descriptions of sex.

The Mysterious Island by Jules Verne. **RC 56680.**

Adventure story about five men and a dog who are carried out to sea in a balloon and land on a mysterious island. The resourcefulness of the castaways is the theme of this ingenious work.

Mutiny on the Bounty by Charles Bernard Nordhoff. **RC 57656.**

Based on an actual eighteenth century mutiny, this is the story of sailors rebelling against the brutal life on an English ship, their action against their captain, and their flight to the South Sea Islands.

No Greater Love by Danielle Steel. **RC 33938.**

Edwina Winfield, her parents and siblings, and her fiancé are all exceedingly happy as they sail home to America aboard the *Titanic*. But Edwina's life changes forever the night of April 14, 1912 when the *Titanic* sinks and she is suddenly left with five younger children to care for and her father's newspaper to run.

The Poseidon Adventure by Paul Gallico. **RC 57051.**

The SS *Poseidon*, a giant ocean liner turned cruise ship, capsizes when caught by a tidal wave. Will the group of survivors be led to safety, and if so, how?

Robert Crews by Thomas Berger. **RC 38720.**

Fortyish, alcoholic Robert Crews, becomes a modern day Robinson Crusoe when he is the sole survivor of a small plane crash. Living off a dwindling inheritance, Crews has never held a job and is woefully unprepared to rough it. Forced to improvise, he survives two months before encountering another human. Some strong language.

Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe. **RC 27138.**

Crusoe runs away to sea, is shipwrecked, and leads a solitary existence on an uninhabited island near the Orinoco River for 24 years. He meets the difficulties of primitive life with ingenuity and at length finds a companion in a native whom he saves from cannibals.

The Satanic Verses by Salman Rushdie. **RC 29207.**

When two Indian-born actors fall from an exploded hijacked airplane onto an English Channel beach, they must overcome violent personal conflicts in order to survive the catastrophe. Gibreel acquires a halo, but Saladin begins to take on the appearance of the devil, and from here on the story becomes a tale of good and evil.

Savages by Shirley Conran. **RC 26025.**

Five elegant, pampered corporate wives whose husbands are competing for the presidency of a Fortune 500 company find themselves stranded on a tropical island when their husbands are massacred during a group vacation. In the cannibal-inhabited jungle, they must overcome their jealousies and suspicions and learn to rely on their own wits, strength, and courage if they are to survive.

Sea Story by Sam Llewellyn. **RC 29465.**

Seaborne novel follows the adventures of a dozen characters in a Great Circle sailing race lasting almost eight months via Portsmouth-Capetown-Sidney-Rio-Portsmouth. The competitors battle each other, the weather, often their own shipmates, and always the sea. Strong language.

Serpent by Clive Cussler. **RC 48719.**

National Underwater and Marine Agency (NUMA) investigators Kurt Austin and Joe Zavala use their aquatic skills and keen minds to try to retrieve a mysterious object from an armored car on the sunken *Andrea Doria*. They face numerous adventures fraught with complications and impeded by political schemes.

Sole Survivor by Dean Koontz. **RC 44144.**

Los Angeles journalist Joe Carpenter is devastated by the loss of his wife and two daughters, who died in a plane crash. A year later, Carpenter is shocked to meet a mysterious woman who claims to have been on that flight. She appears to bring great joy to the crash victim's loved ones, but then they each inexplicably kill themselves. Violence.

The Stand by Stephen King. **RC 56081.**

"Superflu," an experimental virus that can kill every conceivable type of antibody the human organism can muster against it, hits the United States and the world, rapidly wiping out the whole of civilization, except for the one-half of one percent who are immune. Some strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex.

The Ugly Duckling by Iris Johansen. **RC 43888.**

Mousy, plain Nell Calder is attending a party on a Greek island when her husband and daughter are killed and she is badly mutilated. But why? Nicholas Tanek investigates as Nell emerges with a gorgeous new face and a new reason to live: revenge. Strong language, some violence, and some descriptions of sex.

Under a Wild Sky by Sasha Lord. **RC 61352.**

Ronin McTaver, lone survivor of an assault on his family, flees into the forbidding Loch Nidean forest with a sacred tapestry. When forest dwellers attack him, Ronin takes a young boy hostage, unaware that the boy is actually a woman. Explicit descriptions of sex and some violence.

Voyage: A Novel of 1896 by Sterling Hayden. **RC 50128.**

Adventure story of Captain Pendleton's ill-starred voyage on the windjammer *Neptune's Car* around Cape Horn to San Francisco with a cargo of coal. The brawny crew is driven to mutiny and murder by overwork and ill-treatment. Strong language and explicit descriptions of sex.

Winter Harvest by Norah Lofts. **RC 21668.**

Novel of the American West, inspired by the gruesome ordeal of the Donner party in 1846. Relates the story of two men and two women who for compelling personal reasons seek a new life in California but who become trapped in a high mountain pass where they face slow starvation.

Winter Rage by John Legg. **RC 46946.**

Saint Louis, 1832. Colonel Melton hires Nathaniel Squire to lead an inexperienced group into the western mountains on a beaver trapping expedition. Squire lives up to his reputation as a seasoned trapper who knows how to deal with Indians and the other dangers of the winter wilderness. Violence, some strong language, and some descriptions of sex.

Survivor Stories: Non-Fiction

Alive: The Story of the Andes Survivors by Piers Paul Read.
RC 54741.

The ordeal of the young men and women who survived seventy days in the Andes after a plane crash. Rather than die of starvation they made a difficult decision: to practice cannibalism.

Castaway by Lucy Irvine. **RC 20910.**

When the author, then in her mid-20s, answered a London travel magazine advertisement announcing "writer seeks 'wife' for a year on tropical island," she embarked on a complex and exciting adventure. For that year she and her middle aged companion lived on the island of Tuin off the northernmost coast of Australia , where they braved drought, illness, torrential storms, and each other's acrimony. Strong language.

Desperate Journeys, Abandoned Souls by Edward Leslie.
RC 29457.

The author tells the stories of twenty men and women involved in shipwrecks, earthquakes, plane crashes, and other disasters. Each chapter covers one person's story, often from diaries, and salutes that person's courage, resourcefulness, and perseverance.

Ordeal by Hunger by George R. Stewart. **AZC 2323.**

In 1936, Stewart wrote this definitive work on the ill-fated party of pioneers trapped in the Sierra Nevada mountains during the winter of 1846 based on diaries and other contemporary accounts. Although it is a story of cannibalism on the frontier; it is also an account of exploration, endurance, and survival.

Return with Honor by Scott O'Grady. **RC 41856.**

Air Force Captain Scott O'Grady prepared for his Deny Flight mission over Bosnia as usual on June 2, 1995. But several hours later, an anti-aircraft missile hit his plane, and his day became anything but usual. As O'Grady details his survival during the six days it took for him to be rescued, he also provides background information on his life prior to and following that mission.

Saved by the Light: The True Story of a Man Who Died Twice by Dannon Brinkley. **RC 38855.**

On September 17, 1975, Brinkley was struck by lightning and appeared to die, in spite of efforts to save him. He describes going through a tunnel and coming face to face with thirteen angelic "Beings of Light," who showed him his past and his future and told him what he must do upon returning to life. A second near death experience was in 1989.

Seductive Poison: A Jonestown Survivor's Story of Life and Death in the People's Temple by Deborah Layton. **RC 48730.**

The author recalls how as a young woman in 1978, she was living with her mother, brother, and hundreds of other American followers of the reverend Jim Jones in Guyana. She describes their wretched lifestyle and her decision to escape, just months before Jonestown residents were ordered to commit mass suicide. Some strong language.

Tornado!

The Breathtaker by Alice Blanchard. **RC 57636.**

Oklahoma. In the aftermath of a devastating twister, widowed police chief Charlie Grover discovers the bodies of three apparent tornado victims. When autopsies reveal foul play, Charlie, aided by storm-chasing specialist Willa Bellman, races to stop a killer using cyclones to camouflage murder. Violence, strong language, and some explicit descriptions of sex.

Heavy Weather by Bruce Sterling. **RC 42068.**

In the year 2031, the cumulative effects of global pollution and ecological breakdown have distorted weather patterns. A disparate group of tornado freaks calling themselves the Storm Troupe track a series of ever bigger killer tornadoes across the Texas plains. As they wait to "bear witness" to "the big one," they not only face danger, but must overcome their own personal conflicts to keep their band together. Strong language.

Little Britches: Father and I Were Ranchers by Ralph Moody.
RC 43671.

This account of roundups and auctions, irrigation wars, tornadoes, and family life depicts Western farm life through the eyes of an eight-year-old boy. In 1906 young Ralph Moody and his family moved from New Hampshire to a Colorado ranch. Because of his father's failing health, much of the ranch work fell to Ralph.

Rude Behavior by Dan Jenkins. **RC 49172.**

Billy Clyde Puckett, former football halfback and now bored TV sports commentator, returns to Fort Worth, Texas. Bankrolled by his father-in-law, Puckett gains the NFL franchise for the West Texas Tornadoes and starts putting a team together, while his wife is making a movie in Switzerland. Strong language.

The Storm Season by William Hauptman. **RC 35656.**

Burl Drennan returns to his small hometown, Nortex, Texas, after his rock group fails. His life falls into a routine when he begins work as a railroad man. It takes a tornado to shake up not only Burl, but his brother, his parents, and the other Nortex people as well. Burl keeps the excitement alive by tracking and chasing tornadoes as he and his friends contemplate their futures. Strong language, explicit descriptions of sex, and some violence.

The Tornado: Nature's Ultimate Windstorm by Thomas P. Grazulis.
RC 53599.

Meteorologist and researcher of weather phenomena describes the formation, forecasting, history, and science of the tornado life cycle. Recounts personal anecdotes, common myths, and puzzling elements of human interaction with this incredible and unpredictable force.

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