

# Celebrate the holiday season with these 6 paperbacks (for a friend or yourself)

By **Moira Macdonald**  
*The Seattle Times*

December is a lovely time for reading, and for thinking about what books to buy as holiday gifts. (You may have heard: Order early this year.) Here are six fresh-minted options in paperback, to suit a variety of tastes.

## THE CITY OF MIST: STORIES

by **Carlos Ruiz Zafón**

Zafón, the Barcelona-born author of the international bestseller "The Shadow of the Wind," died last year of cancer at age 55. This posthumous collection of stories features many that have never before been published in English, returning readers to the mythical Barcelona library known as the Cemetery of Forgotten Books explored in "The Shadow of the Wind" and several sequels. Writing of "The Shadow of the Wind," which sold more than 15

million copies worldwide, a New York Times reviewer described Zafón's style as "Gabriel García Márquez meets Umberto Eco meets Jorge Luis Borges for a sprawling magic show, exasperatingly tricky and mostly wonderful."

## LEAVE THE WORLD BEHIND

by **Rumaan Alam**

By bestseller and National Book Award finalist Alam, this novel throws two families — strangers to each other — together in a remote beach house during a blackout. Calling it a "slippery and duplicitous marvel of a novel," an NPR reviewer noted that "'Leave the World Behind' is atmospheric and prescient: Its rhythms of comedy alternating with shock and despair mimic so much of the rhythms of life right now. That's more than enough to make it a signature novel for this blasted year."

## MOONFLOWER MURDERS

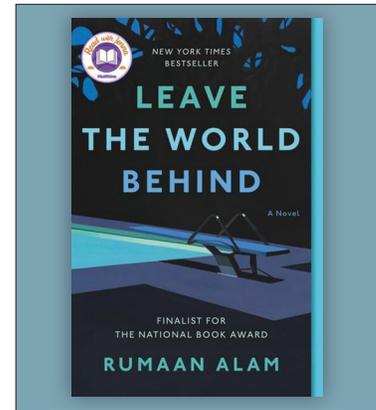
by **Anthony Horowitz**

If you, like me, fell head over heels in love with Horowitz's "Magpie Murders" — a mystery deliciously wrapped in another mystery — you'll be delighted to hear of this sequel. In it, former editor Susan Ryeland (now running a hotel on a Greek island) gets called back into the literary world when she learns that one of her former authors, now deceased, based his book on a real-life crime. If you're in need of a holiday gift for someone who loves witty British mysteries, wrap up these two books and prepare to be thanked.

## THE SEARCHER

by **Tana French**

French is the author of the wonderful Dublin Murder Squad series, which began with the award-winning "In the Woods" and continued for five more novels, each told from the point of view of a different member of a Dublin



HarperCollins Publishers

police department's homicide division. Her last two have been stand-alone mysteries; this one was inspired by the Irish author's love of Westerns. Reading it last year, I wrote, "'The Searcher' feels different from French's previous books — there's a sparseness to the setting that contrasts with the bustle of the Dublin Murder Squad, or even the gathered family in 'The Witch Elm' — but is no less addictive; the pages practically turn themselves."

## WILD THING: THE SHORT, SPELLBINDING LIFE OF JIMI HENDRIX

by **Philip Norman**

Born in Seattle 79 years ago this month, Hendrix was only 27 when he died in London, after a remarkable four years as a rock star. "In this rollicking biography,

Norman ("Paul McCartney") follows the electric guitar god from hardscrabble Seattle boyhood to enormous fame and his 1970 martyrdom to rock-star excess," according to Publishers Weekly's starred review. "Norman's entertaining, psychedelically tinged portrait shows why Hendrix made such a deep impression on rock 'n' roll."

## THE WRITER'S LIBRARY: THE AUTHORS YOU LOVE ON THE BOOKS THAT CHANGED THEIR LIVES

by **Nancy Pearl and Jeff Schwager**

Seattle librarian extraordinaire Pearl and playwright Schwager asked 22 prominent authors — among them Seattle's own Charles Johnson, plus Michael Chabon, Donna Tartt, Luis Alberto Urrea, Amor Towles and Louise Erdrich — to name the books that shaped and inspired them. Pearl and Schwager "bring boundless enthusiasm and curiosity to this eclectic and probing book of interviews," wrote Publishers Weekly in a starred review. "Readers of this delightful compendium will relish the chance to find many of those shared loves, as well as discover new ones."

Looking for a cozy place for your next book club meeting?

Contact us:  
info@ChurchillPublishingLibrary.com

3451 Broadway St.  
Baker City, OR

**CHURCHILL**  
PUBLISHING LIBRARY

**Tom Reed**  
Friday, December 17th @ 6:30

Zoom and in-person options. In person event will be at Churchill Baker, proof of vaccination required. Zoom invites will be sent via email day of the event. Please call to be added to the invite list.

Audio & E-Books Available

**Betty's Books**  
EST. 1979

As a student of Japanese arts and aesthetics, and a student of the study of consciousness, photographer and hypnotherapist Tom Reed is interested in the experience of aesthetic arrest and what he calls "shocking beauty." (See his TEDx presentation on that subject) Zen sensibilities profoundly influence his compositions. Other major influences on his work have been Ansel Adams, Edgar Payne's work in the Sierras, and the Hudson River School of painters. Indeed he was nicknamed "The Ansel Adams of Patagonia" after his book, *The Granite Avatars of Patagonia*. His work can be seen at [www.tomreed.com](http://www.tomreed.com).

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