



STAY AT HOME AND READ

FROM THE HYDE PARK BOOK CLUB

APRIL 2020

Explore Hyde Park

HYDE PARK BOOK CLUB



The Hyde Park Book Club was formed in 2015 to explore the historic and literary wealth of Hyde Park and Chicago's South Side. The club reads fiction and non-fiction and celebrates Hyde Park and South Side Chicago authors. It is jointly sponsored by the Hyde Park Historical Society and Chicago Hyde Park Village.

What follows is a selection of some of the Club's favorite reads of the past 5 years.



Hyde Park Book Club



NON-FICTION



- Chicago's Historic Hyde Park
- Chicago by the Book
- The Culture of Opportunity
- The Third Coast
- The Leopold & Loeb Files
- Where Has All the Ivy Gone
- Their Day in the Sun
- Ghosts in the Schoolyard
- High Risers
- Another Way Home
- A Few Red Drops
- The Devil in the White City
- The Story of Jane
- Southern Exposure
- The Housewife Loved a Bandit

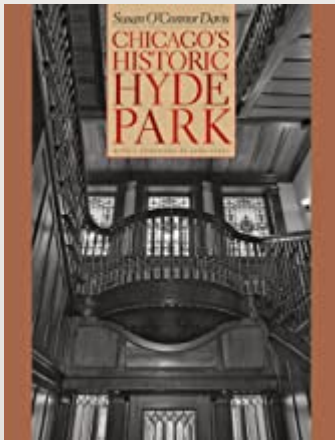
CHICAGO'S HISTORIC HYDE PARK



Chicago's Historic Hyde Park

by Susan O'Connor Davis

University of Chicago Press, 2013, 504p.



In *Chicago's Historic Hyde Park*, Susan O'Connor Davis offers readers a biography of this distinguished neighborhood, from house to home, and from architect to resident. Along the way, she weaves a fascinating tapestry, describing Hyde Park—Kenwood's most celebrated structures from the time of Lincoln through the racial upheaval and destructive urban renewal of the 1940s, 50s, and 60s into the preservationist movement of the last thirty-five years. Coupled with hundreds of historical photographs, drawings, and current views, Davis recounts the life stories of these gorgeous buildings—and of the astounding talents that built them. This is architectural history at its best.



Hyde Park Book Club



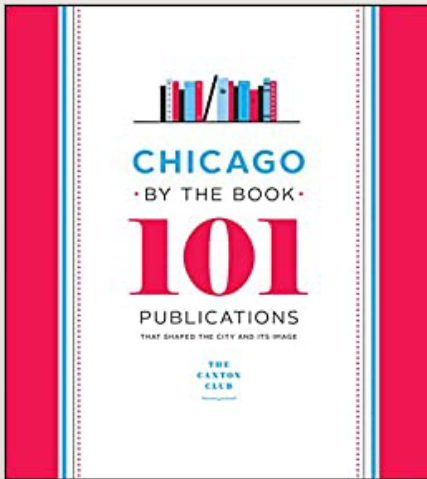
CHICAGO BY THE BOOK



Chicago by the Book: 101 Publications That Shaped the City and Its Image

by The Caxton Club

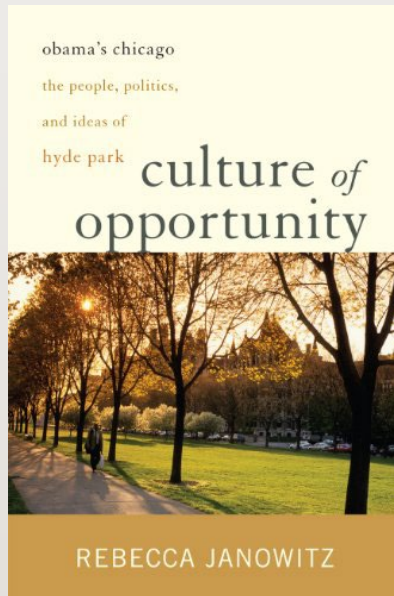
University of Chicago Press, 2019, 336p.



Chicago by the Book profiles 101 landmark publications about Chicago from the past 170 years that have helped define the city and its image. Each title—carefully selected by the Caxton Club, a venerable Chicago bibliophilic organization—is the focus of an illustrated essay by a leading scholar, writer, or bibliophile.

Arranged chronologically to show the history of both the city and its books, the essays can be read in order from Mrs. John H. Kinzie's 1844 *Narrative of the Massacre of Chicago* to Sara Paretsky's 2015 crime novel *Brush Back*. Or one can dip in and out, savoring reflections on the arts, sports, crime, race relations, urban planning, politics, and even Mrs. O'Leary's legendary cow.

CULTURE OF OPPORTUNITY



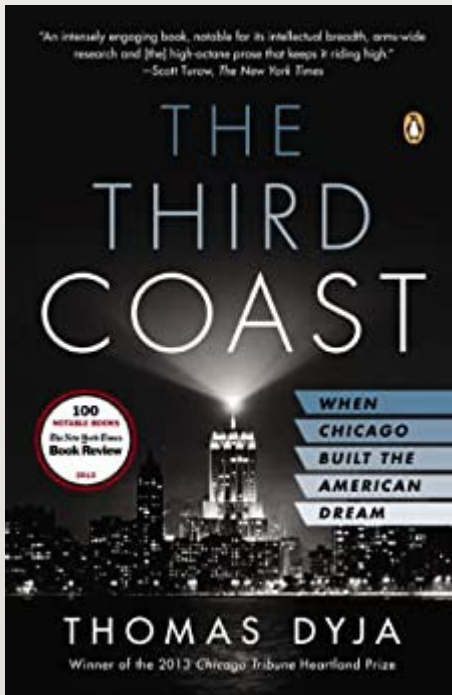
Culture of Opportunity: Obama's Chicago, the people, politics and ideas of Hyde Park

by Rebecca Janowitz

Ivan R. Dee, 2010, 256p.

Rebecca Janowitz's portrait of Hyde Park-the Chicago South Side neighborhood long noted for its progressive politics-offers an expert, insider's social and political perspective on this intriguing community that in many ways nurtured Barack Obama's political career and made possible his run for the presidency. Sixty years ago-due to a major community grassroots organizing effort, followed by a publicly funded urban renewal program-the Hyde Park-Kenwood area of Chicago emerged as a diverse, politically confident community in a key lakefront location within a city noted for its segregated neighborhoods, cultivating a rich and congenial cultural tradition. Before achieving racial balance, Hyde Park had become a center of progressive politics dating from the late nineteenth century.

THE THIRD COAST



The Third Coast: When Chicago Built the American Dream

by Thomas Dyja

Penguin Books, 2013, 544p

Before air travel overtook trains, nearly every coast-to-coast journey included a stop in Chicago, and this flow of people and commodities made it the crucible for American culture and innovation. In luminous prose, Chicago native Thomas Dyja re-creates the story of the city in its postwar prime and explains its profound impact on modern America—from Chess Records to *Playboy*, McDonald's to the University of Chicago. Populated with an incredible cast of characters, including Mahalia Jackson, Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, Chuck Berry, Sun Ra, Simone de Beauvoir, Nelson Algren, Gwendolyn Brooks, Studs Turkel, and Mayor Richard J. Daley, *The Third Coast* recalls the prominence of the Windy City in all its grandeur.

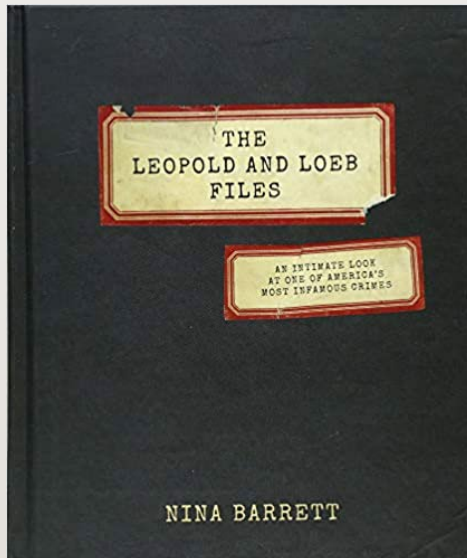
THE LEOPOLD AND LOEB FILES



The Leopold and Loeb Files: An Intimate Look at One of Americas' Most Infamous Crimes

by Nina Barrett

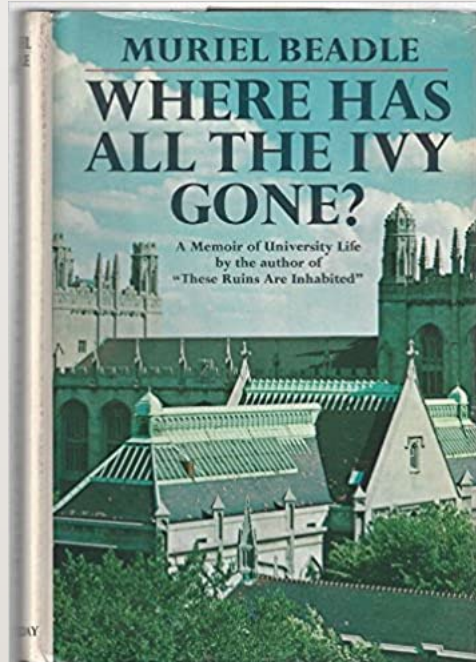
Agate Midway, 2018, 304p



In 1924, University of Chicago students Nathan Leopold and Richard Loeb were young, rich, and looking for a thrill. The crime that came next—the brutal, cold-blood murder of 14-year-old Bobby Franks—would come to captivate the country and unfold into what many dubbed the crime of the century.

In *The Leopold and Loeb Files*, author Nina Barrett returns to the primary sources—confessions, interrogation transcripts, psychological reports, and more—the kind of rare, pre-computer court documents that were usually destroyed as a matter of course. Until now, these documents have not been part of the murder's central narrative. This first-of-its-kind approach allows readers to view the case through a keyhole and look past all of the stories that have been spun in the last 90 years to focus on the heart of the crime.

WHERE HAS ALL THE IVY GONE



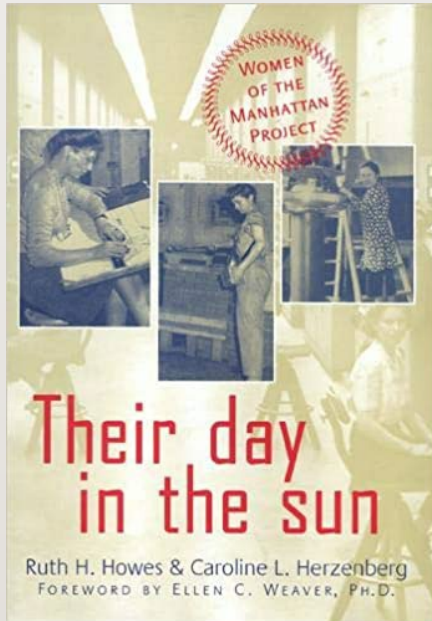
Where Has All the Ivy Gone?

by Muriel Beadle

Doubleday, 1972, 395p

"Where Has All the Ivy Gone?" is Muriel Beadle's own account of the seven years she spent as wife of the President of the University of Chicago from 1961 to 1968. It was a period which saw dramatic, and sometimes violent changes on the college campus--the student war protests, demonstrations, and racial confrontations which erupted at schools across the country--and Muriel Beadle presents an insider's eye view of those turbulent years when the Ivory towers were besieged.

THEIR DAY IN THE SUN



Their Day in the Sun: Women of the Manhattan Project

by Ruth H. Howes & Caroline L. Herzenberg

Temple University Press, 2003, 264p

The public perception of the making of the atomic bomb is yet an image of the dramatic efforts of a few brilliant male scientists. However, the Manhattan Project was not just the work of a few and it was not just in Los Alamos. It was, in fact, a sprawling research and industrial enterprise that spanned the country from Hanford in Washington State to Oak Ridge in Tennessee, and the Met labs in Illinois. The Manhattan Project also included women in every capacity. Although women participated in all aspects of the Manhattan Project, their contributions are either omitted or only mentioned briefly in most histories of the project. It is this hidden story that is presented in *Their Day in the Sun* through interviews, written records, and photographs of the women who were physicists, chemists, mathematicians, biologists, and technicians in the labs.

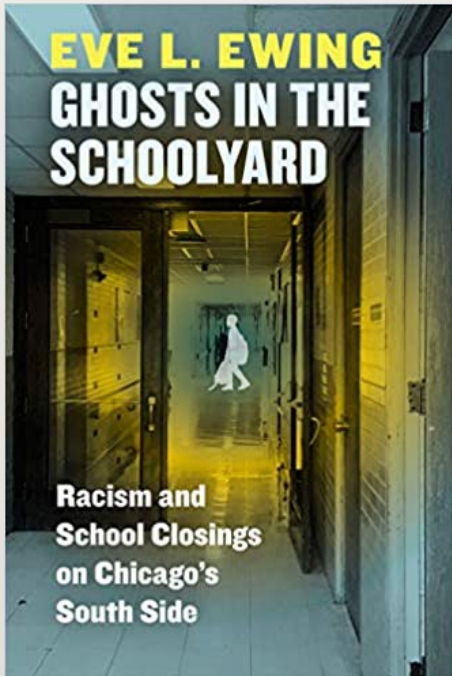
GHOSTS IN THE SCHOOLYARD



Ghosts in the Schoolyard: Racism and School Closings on Chicago's South Side

by Eve L. Ewing

University of Chicago Press, 2018, 240p



In 2013, Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced that dozens of Chicago's public schools would be shut down. Eventually 49 neighborhood schools in largely black sections of the Windy City closed, an unprecedented move that sparked immediate backlash. "A fight for a school is never just about a school," Ewing (University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration) notes in her bracing account of that turbulent time, relying on a blend of historical and ethnographic research to show how the closures were only the most recent manifestation of a decades-long pattern of disinvestment by Chicago Public Schools. Most important, this book effectively connects school closings in largely African American neighborhoods to the devaluation of black lives in general. (School Library Journal)

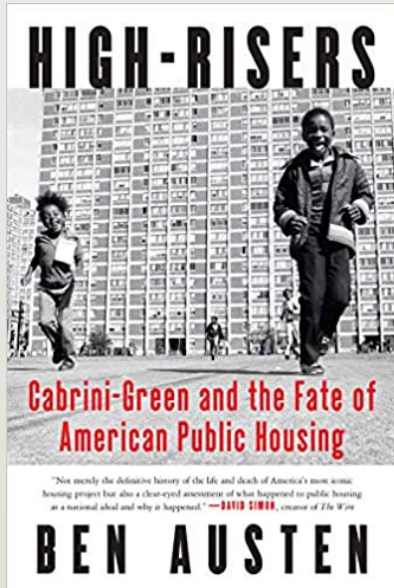
HIGH RISERS



High-Risers: Cabrini-Green and the Fate of American Public Housing

by Ben Austen

Harper, 2019, 400p



In this novelistic and eye-opening narrative, Hyde Parker Ben Austen tells the story of America's public housing experiment and the changing fortunes of American cities. It is an account told movingly through the lives of residents who struggled to make a home for their families as powerful forces converged to accelerate the housing complex's demise. Beautifully written, rich in detail, and full of moving portraits, *High-Risers* is a sweeping exploration of race, class, popular culture, and politics in modern America that considers what went wrong in our nation's effort to provide affordable housing to the poor—and what we can learn from those mistakes.

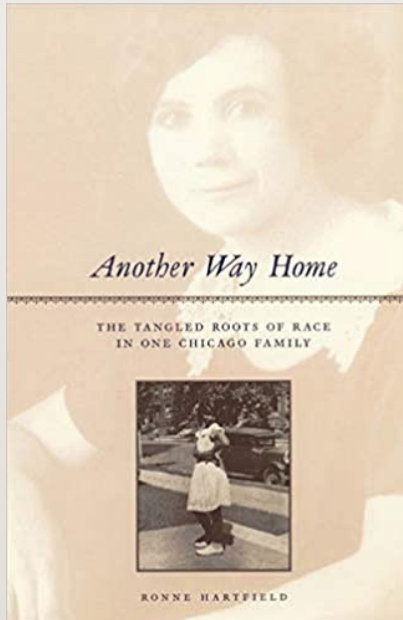
ANOTHER WAY HOME



Another Way Home: The Tangled Roots of Race in One Chicago Family

by Ronne Hartfield

University of Chicago Press, 2004, 224p



In her prologue to *Another Way Home*, Ronne Hartfield notes the dearth of stories about African Americans who have occupied the area of mixed race with ease and harmony for generations. Her moving family history is filled with such stories, told in beautifully crafted and unsentimental prose. Spanning most of the twentieth century, Hartfield's book celebrates the special occasion of being born and reared in a household where miscegenation was the rule rather than the exception—where being a woman of mixed race could be a fundamental source of strength, vitality, and courage.

Throughout her book, Hartfield portrays mixed-race Americans navigating the challenges of their lives with resilience and grace, making *Another Way Home* an intimate and compelling encounter with one family's response to our racially charged culture.

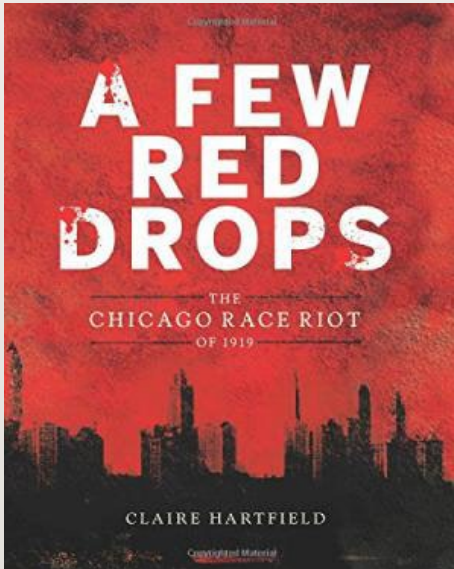
A FEW RED DROPS



A Few Red Drops: The Chicago Race Riot of 1919

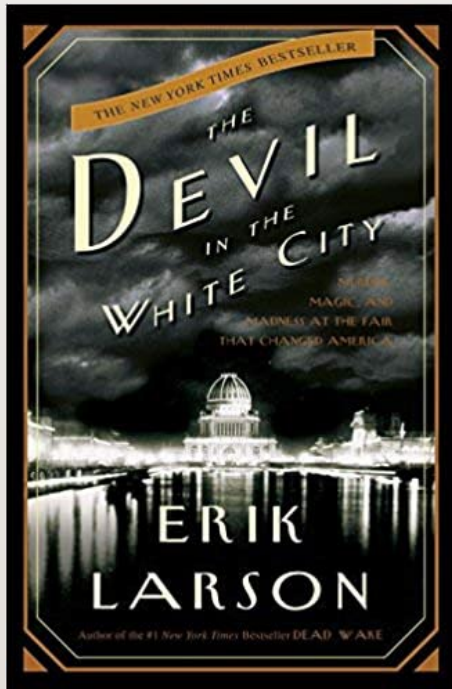
by Claire Hartfield

Clarion Books, 2018, 208p



On a hot day in July 1919, five black youths went swimming in Lake Michigan, unintentionally floating close to the white beach. An angry white man began throwing stones at the boys, striking and killing one. Racial conflict on the beach erupted into days of urban violence that shook the city of Chicago to its foundations. This mesmerizing narrative draws on contemporary accounts as it traces the roots of the explosion that had been building for decades in race relations, politics, business, and clashes of culture.

THE DEVIL IN THE WHITE CITY



The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic and Madness at the Fair that Changed America

by Erik Larson

Crown, 2003, 208p

In Chicago at the end of the nineteenth century, amid the smoke of industry and the clatter of trains there lived two men, both handsome, both blue-eyed, and both unusually adept at their chosen skills. One was an architect, the builder of many of America's most important structures; the other was a murderer, one of the most prolific in history and a harbinger of an American archetype, the urban serial killer. Although the two never met, at least not formally, their fates were linked by a single, magical event, one largely fallen from modern recollection but that in its time was considered to possess a transformative power nearly equal to that of the Civil war.

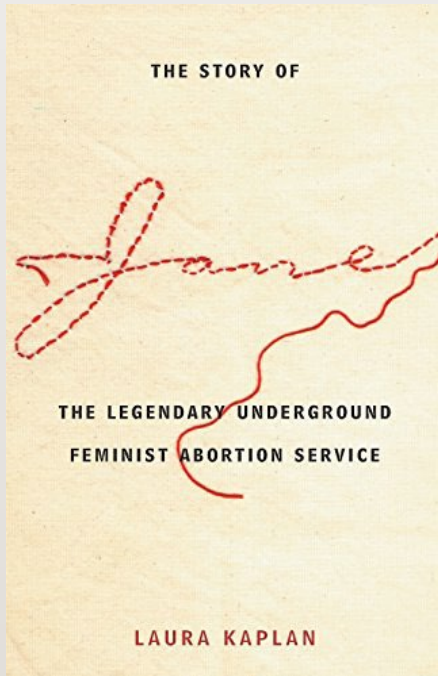
THE STORY OF JANE



The Story of Jane: The Legendary Underground Feminist Abortion Service

by Laura Kaplan

University of Chicago Press, 1997, 314p



During the four years before the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision legalized abortion in 1973, the 100 members of Jane helped some 11,000 women end their pregnancies. The organization, founded in Hyde Park, Chicago in 1967, adopted the name Abortion Counseling Service of Women's Liberation, proclaiming that they were for "every woman having exactly as many children as she wants, when she wants, if she wants." The name Jane arose as a necessary shortcut for women seeking assistance. The Story of Jane follows the origins of the group through its final dissolution after Roe v. Wade.

SOUTHERN EXPOSURE



Southern Exposure: The Overlooked Architecture of Chicago's South Side

by Lee Bey

Northwestern University Press, 2019, 192p



Southern Exposure is the first book devoted to the South Side's rich and unfairly ignored architectural heritage. With lively, insightful text and gallery-quality color photographs by noted Chicago architecture expert Lee Bey, *Southern Exposure* documents the remarkable and largely unsung architecture of the South Side. The book features an array of landmarks—from a Space Age dry cleaner to a nineteenth-century lagoon that meanders down the middle of a working-class neighborhood street—that are largely absent from arts discourse, in no small part because they sit in a predominantly African American and Latino section of town better known as a place of disinvestment, abandonment, and violence.

THE HOUSEWIFE LOVED A BANDIT



The Housewife Loved a Bandit

by Larry Baran

Larry Baran, 2017, 234p



In 1953 Flo Baran left her husband and six kids in the Hyde Park Chicago neighborhood for a 7 month coast-to-coast crime spree. In a story narrated by her son, Larry Baran, Flo and Bill Gaskell lived a Bonnie and Clyde type existence, robbing restaurants, supermarkets and Western Union stores as they went, finally splitting up in Miami. Flo returned to the family in Hyde Park and picked up family life again until arrested by U.S. Marshals in 1955 at their home on Ridgewood Court, in front of son Larry.

This informal narrative also covers family history and the lives of Flo's children growing up in Hyde Park while their mother was on the lam or in jail.

FICTION



- Native Son
- Maud Martha
- The Lake on Fire
- Sweet Clover
- The Adventures of Augie March
- Chasing Vermeer
- Death at the Fair
- Indemnity Only
- That Hyde Park Affair

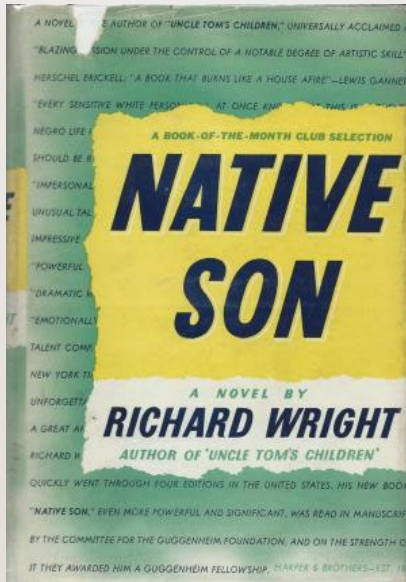
NATIVE SON



Native Son

by Richard Wright

1940



Right from the start, Bigger Thomas had been headed for jail. It could have been for assault or petty larceny; by chance, it was for murder and rape. **Native Son** tells the story of this young black man caught in a downward spiral after he kills a young white woman in a brief moment of panic.

Set in Chicago in the 1930s, Richard Wright's powerful novel is an unsparing reflection on the poverty and feelings of hopelessness experienced by people in inner cities across the country and of what it means to be black in America.

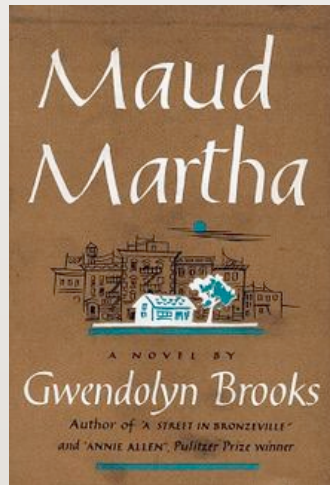
MAUD MARTHA



Maud Martha

by Gwendolyn Brooks

1953



Gwendolyn Brooks, the Pulitzer Prize-winning poet who died in 2000, published only one work of fiction for adults: the indispensable *Maud Martha*, a novella made up of 34 vignettes. Published in 1953, *Maud Martha* is the story of a girl who becomes a woman in 1940s black Chicago, told with minimal drama and maximal beauty. (Asali Soloman)

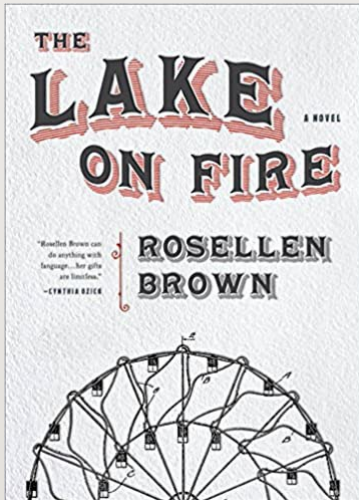
THE LAKE ON FIRE



The Lake on Fire

by Rosellen Brown

Saraband Books, 2018, 320p



The Lake on Fire is an epic narrative that begins among 19th century Jewish immigrants on a failing Wisconsin farm. Dazzled by lore of the American dream, Chaya and her strange, brilliant, young brother Asher stow away to Chicago; what they discover there, however, is a Gilded Age as empty a façade as the beautiful Columbian Exposition luring thousands to Lake Michigan's shore. The pair scrapes together a meager living—Chaya in a cigar factory; Asher, roaming the city and stealing books and jewelry to share with the poor, until they find different paths of escape. An examination of family, love, and revolution, this profound tale resonates eerily with today's current events and tumultuous social landscape. The Lake on Fire is robust, gleaming, and grimy all at once, proving that celebrated author Rosellen Brown is back with a story as luminous as ever.

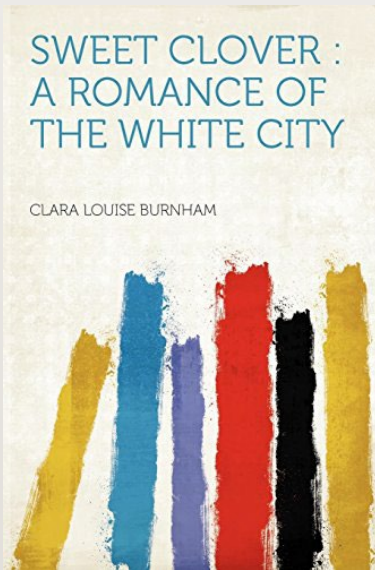
SWEET CLOVER



Sweet Clover: A Romance of the White City

by Clara Louise Burnham

1894



Set with the backdrop of the World's Columbian Exposition, **Sweet Clover** is a period Victorian Romance. The novel features detailed descriptions of the different attractions at the Exposition. The story line, although somewhat dated, is charmingly in tune with the age. Clara Louise Burnham, although little known today, was a prolific author throughout her life.

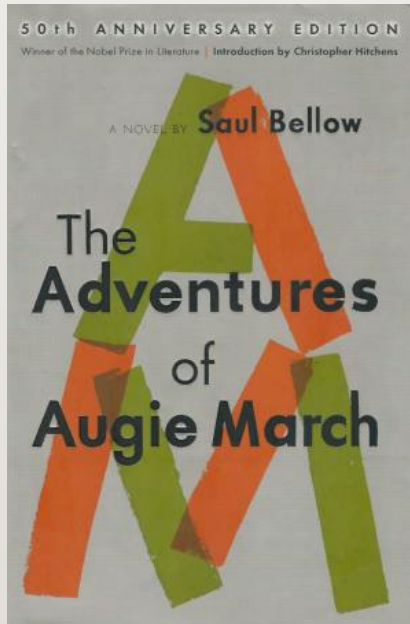
THE ADVENTURES OF AUGIE MARCH



The Adventures of Augie March

by Saul Bellow

1953



As soon as it first appeared in 1953, this novel by the great Saul Bellow was hailed as an American classic. Augie, the narrator-hero is a poor Chicago boy growing up during the Great Depression. A “born recruit,” Augie makes himself available for a series of occupations, then proudly rejects each one as unworthy. His own oddity is reflected in the companions he encounters—plungers, schemers, risk-takers, and “hole-and corner” operators.

Saul Bellow, a long-time Hyde Parker, went on to publish *Humboldt's Gift* and subsequently won the Nobel prize for literature in 1976.

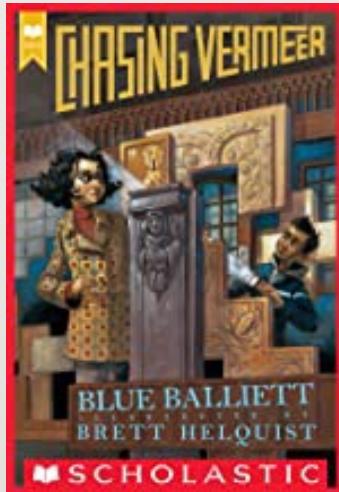
CHASING VERMEER



Chasing Vermeer

By Blue Balliett

Scholastic Paperbacks, 2005, 304p



When a book of unexplainable occurrences brings Petra and Calder together, strange things start to happen: Seemingly unrelated events connect; an eccentric old woman seeks their company; an invaluable Vermeer painting disappears. Before they know it, the two find themselves at the center of an international art scandal, where no one is spared from suspicion. As Petra and Calder are drawn clue by clue into a mysterious labyrinth, they must draw on their powers of intuition, their problem solving skills, and their knowledge of Vermeer. Can they decipher a crime that has stumped even the FBI? Set on Harper Avenue, Powell's Books and the University of Chicago form the backdrop for this young adult thriller.

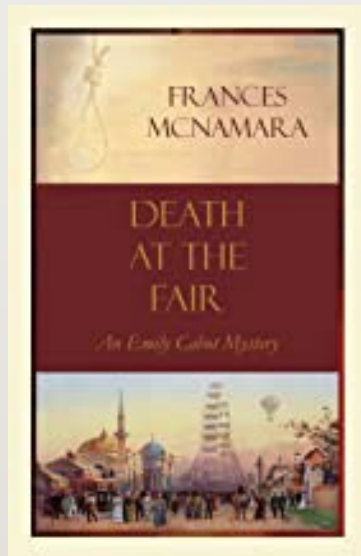
DEATH AT THE FAIR



Death at the Fair: An Emily Cabot Mystery

By Frances McNamara

Allium Press of Chicago, 2008, 211 p



The 1893 World's Columbian Exposition provides a vibrant backdrop for this exciting new mystery. Emily Cabot is one of the first women graduate students at the University of Chicago, eager to prove herself in the new field of sociology. While she is busy exploring the Exposition with her family and friends, her colleague, Dr. Stephen Chapman, is accused of murder. Emily sets out to search for the truth behind the crime, but is thwarted by the thieves, corrupt politicians, and gamblers who are ever-present in Chicago. A lynching that occurred in the dead man's past leads Emily to seek the assistance of the black activist Ida B. Wells.

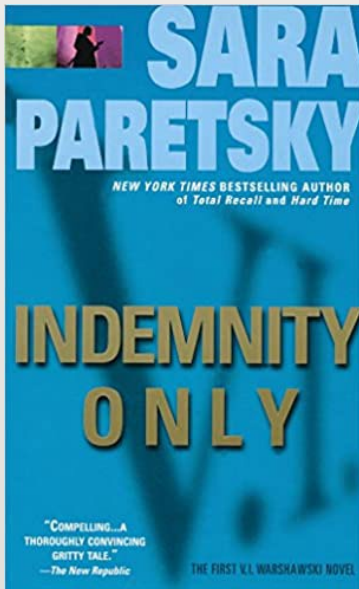
INDEMNITY ONLY



Indemnity Only

By Sara Paretsky

1991



Meeting an anonymous client late on a sizzling summer night is asking for trouble. But trouble is Chicago private eye V.I. Warshwsky's specialty. Her client says he's the prominent banker, John Thayer. Turns out he's not. He says his son's girlfriend, Anita Hill, is missing. Turns out that's not her real name. V.I.'s search turns up someone soon enough -- the real John Thayer's son, and he's dead in his Hyde Park apartment. Who's V.I.'s client? Why has she been set up and sent out on a wild-goose chase? By the time she's got it figured, things are hotter -- and deadlier -- than Chicago in July. V.I.'s in a desperate race against time. At stake: a young woman's life.

THAT HYDE PARK AFFAIR



That Hyde Park Affair: Kelly O'Quinn Mystery #5

By Barry Kritzberg

Amazon Kindle, 2012



Reporter Kelly O'Quinn, of the Chicago Daily News, has always believed that “entangling office alliances” are not very helpful in advancing one’s career. She successfully manages to avoid those romantic entanglements until Junius B. Jefferson III is hired as a reporter.

The charming and fascinating Junius introduces Kelly to a world of Hyde Park intellectuals, who love to party and dance as much as they like to argue. And then terrible things happen: coordinated fire-bombings of Chicago draft board offices and college ROTC headquarters; and, on the same night, a Hyde Park friend was murdered.

BOOK AVAILABILITY



Most books on this list can be ordered from:

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<https://www.semcoop.com/>

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challenging times!**



Hyde Park Book Club



HYDE PARK BOOK CLUB



The Hyde Park Book Club meets on the third Monday of each month, except December, at 7:30 pm via Zoom, or in normal times at the Hyde Park Historical Society, 5529 S. Lake Park Avenue, Chicago, IL 60637.

For additional information or to be added to the mailing list contact:

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Hyde Park Book Club

