



Critic's Choice Final Book Selections 2010

Nov. 18 & 20, 2010

Colum McCann: Let the Great World Spin

August 1974. Tightrope walker Philipp Petit pivots, runs, leaps between NYC's Twin Towers on a wire suspended 1/4 of a mile above ground. And many lives spin around his amazing feat. Winner of the 2009 National Book Award.

Dec. 9 & 11, 2010

Barbara Kingsolver: The Lacuna

Mexican-American Harrison Shepherd leads a remarkable life, enmeshed in turbulent times, spanning three decades: cook for Diego Rivera, confidant of Frida Kahlo, secretary to Leon Trotsky, museum curator for the US government, famous novelist. His story unfolds through journal entries, newspaper articles, letters and comments by his literary executor.

Jan. 6 & 8, 2011

James Levine: The Blue Notebook

An exploited child-woman on the streets of Mumbai writes in her a diary as a means of surviving and transcending the devastating routine of her daily life. Her journal is a miracle of imagination, and a moving tribute to the power of words and the possibility of the human spirit.

NOTE: Dr. James Levine will be present at both lectures for an on-stage interview and a Q & A session.

Feb. 3 & 5, 2011

Simon Mawer: The Glass Room

A young, radiantly idealistic Czech couple builds an extraordinary futuristic home, but are forced to flee as Nazi troops invade their country. Their house changes hands from Czech to German to Soviet possession as they struggle to create a new life in exile in Switzerland, Cuba and America. 2009 Mann-Booker Award finalist.

Mar. 10 & 12, 2011

Tom Rachman: The Imperfectionists

Interspersed within the vivid history of a quirky international English language newspaper published in Rome are the personal dramas of editors, writers, financial officers, field reporters, freelancers and faithful readers.

Apr. 7 & 9, 2011

Helen Simonson: Major Pettigrew's Last Stand

In the cozy village of Edgecombe St. Mary, Major Pettigrew and Mrs. Ali, both widowed, both independent-minded, had assumed they were done with love. The righteous villagers, his self-serving son, her archly conservative in-laws all disapprove of their blossoming romance. A charming, wry story of old-world civility colliding with subtle racism, greed, the emptiness of modern values and the hurdles of convention.