



What is on your nightstand? December 2020 Titles

All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr- This title is available at the library (Call number: Fic Doe) and may be available through Interlibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: From the highly acclaimed, multiple award-winning Anthony Doerr, the beautiful, stunningly ambitious instant *New York Times* bestseller about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II.

Born a Crime by Trevor Noah- This title is available at the library (Call Number: Biography – B Noa) and may be available through Interlibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: Trevor Noah's unlikely path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of *The Daily Show* began with a criminal act: his birth. Trevor was born to a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother at a time when such a union was punishable by five years in prison. Living proof of his parents' indiscretion, Trevor was kept mostly indoors for the earliest years of his life, bound by the extreme and often absurd measures his mother took to hide him from a government that could, at any moment, steal him away. Finally liberated by the end of South Africa's tyrannical white rule, Trevor and his mother set forth on a grand adventure, living openly and freely and embracing the opportunities won by a centuries-long struggle.

The Dark Prophecy (The Trials of Apollo Series, Book 2) by Rick Riordan- This title is not available at the library and may be available through Interlibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: Zeus has punished his son Apollo--god of the sun, music, archery, poetry, and more--by casting him down to earth in the form of a gawky, acne-covered sixteen-year-old mortal named Lester. The only way Apollo can reclaim his rightful place on Mount Olympus is by restoring several Oracles that have gone dark. What is affecting the Oracles, and how can Apollo/Lester do anything about them without his powers?

Dear Evan Hansen by Val Emmich- This title is not available at the library and may be available through Interlibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: When a letter that was never meant to be seen by anyone draws high school senior Evan Hansen into a family's grief over the loss of their son, he is given the chance of a lifetime: to belong. He just has to stick to a lie he never meant to tell, that the notoriously troubled Connor Murphy was his secret best friend.

Fugitive Six by Pittacus Lore (Lorien Legacies Reborn Series – Book 2 of 3)- This title is available at the library (Call Number: YA Fic Lor) and may be available through Interlibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: The Human Garde Academy was created in the aftermath of an alien invasion of Earth. It was meant to provide a safe haven for teens across the globe who were suddenly developing incredible powers known as Legacies. Taylor Cook was one of the newest students and had no idea if she'd ever fit in. But when she was mysteriously abducted, her friends broke every rule in the book to save her. In the process, they uncovered a secret organization that was not only behind Taylor's kidnapping but also the disappearance of numerous teens with abilities. An organization that has dark roots in the Loric's past, untold resources, and potentially even a mole at their own school.

Gathering Blue by Lois Lowry - This title is available at the library (Call number: J Fic Low) and may be available through Interlibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: Lois Lowry won her first Newbery Medal in 1994 for *The Giver*. Six years later, she ushered readers back into its mysterious but plausible future world in *Gathering Blue* to tell the story of Kira, orphaned, physically flawed, and left with an uncertain future. This second book in the Giver Quartet has been stunningly redesigned in paperback. As she did in *The Giver* and later *Messenger*, in *Gathering Blue* Lois Lowry challenges readers to imagine what our world could become, how people could evolve, and what could be considered valuable.

The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas- This title is available at the library (Call Number: YA Fic Tho) and may be available through Interlibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed.

Home Before Dark by Riley Sager- This title is available at the library (Call Number: Fic Sag) and may be available through Interlibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: Twenty-five years ago, Maggie Holt and her parents, Ewan and Jess, moved into Baneberry Hall, a rambling Victorian estate in the Vermont woods. Three weeks later they fled in the dead of night, an ordeal Ewan later recounted in a nonfiction book called *House of Horrors*. His horror memoir of ghostly happenings and encounters with malevolent spirits became a worldwide phenomenon, rivaling *The Amityville Horror* in popularity—and skepticism.

The Land of Stories by Chris Colfer- This title is available at the library (Call Number: J Fic Col) and may be available through Interlibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: Through the mysterious powers of a cherished book of stories, twins Alex and Conner leave their world behind and find themselves in a foreign land full of wonder and magic where they come face-to-face with the fairy-tale characters, they grew up reading about.

Like a Love Story by Abdi Nazemian- This title is not available at the library and may be available through Interlibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: It's 1989 in New York City, and for three teens, the world is changing. Reza is an Iranian boy who has just moved to the city with his mother to live with his stepfather and stepbrother. He's terrified that someone will guess the truth he can barely acknowledge about himself. Reza knows he's gay, but all he knows of gay life are the media's images of men dying of AIDS. Judy is an aspiring fashion designer who worships her uncle Stephen, a gay man with AIDS who devotes his time to activism as a member of ACT UP. Judy has never imagined finding romance...until she falls for Reza and they start dating. Art is Judy's best friend, their school's only out and proud teen. He'll never be who his conservative parents want him to be, so he rebels by documenting the AIDS crisis through his photographs. As Reza and Art grow closer, Reza struggles to find a way out of his deception that won't break Judy's heart—and destroy the most meaningful friendship he's ever known.

Out of my Mind by Sharon Draper- This title is available at the library (Call Number: J Fic Dra) and may be available through Interlibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: Eleven-year-old Melody is not like most people. She can't walk. She can't talk. She can't write. All because she has cerebral palsy. But she also has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She's the smartest kid in her whole school, but NO ONE knows it. Most people—her teachers, her doctors, her classmates—dismiss her as mentally challenged because she can't tell them otherwise. But Melody refuses to be defined by her disability. And she's determined to let everyone know it...somehow.

Pirate Stew by Neil Gaiman- This title is available at the library (Call Number: J Pre Gai) and may be available through Interlibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: Long John has a whole crew of wild pirates in tow, and—for one boy and his sister—he's about to transform a perfectly ordinary evening into a riotous adventure beneath a pirate moon. It's time to make some **PIRATE STEW**. Marvelously silly and gloriously entertaining, this tale of pirates, flying ships, doughnut feasts and some rather magical stew is perfect for all pirates, both young and old. With a deliciously rhyming text from master storyteller Neil Gaiman and spellbinding illustrations by the supremely talented Chris Riddell, this is the picture book of the year!

Red, White and Royal Blue by Casey McQuiston- This title is not available at the library and may be available through Interlibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: *What happens when America's First Son falls in love with the Prince of Wales?* When his mother became President, Alex Claremont-Diaz was promptly cast as the American equivalent of a young royal. Handsome, charismatic, genius—his image is pure millennial-marketing gold for the White House. There's only one problem: Alex has a beef with the actual prince, Henry, across the pond. And when the tabloids get hold of a photo involving an Alex-Henry altercation, U.S./British relations take a turn for the worse. Heads of family, state, and other handlers devise a plan for damage control: staging a truce between the two rivals.

Roll of Thunder Hear my Cry by Mildred Taylor - This title is available (Call number: J Fic Tay) at the library and may be available through Interlibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: *Roll of Thunder Hear my Cry* is a 1976 novel by Mildred D. Taylor, sequel to her 1975 novella *Song of the Trees*. It is a book about racism in America during the Great Depression and Jim Crow era. The novel won the 1977 Newbery Medal.

The Silent Patient by Alex Michaelides - This title is available (Call number: Fic Mic) at the library and may be available through Interlibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: Alicia Berenson's life is seemingly perfect. A famous painter married to an in-demand fashion photographer; she lives in a grand house with big windows overlooking a park in one of London's most desirable areas. One evening her husband Gabriel returns home late from a fashion shoot, and Alicia shoots him five times in the face, and then never speaks another word. Alicia's refusal to talk, or give any kind of explanation, turns a domestic tragedy into something far grander, a mystery that captures the public imagination and casts Alicia into notoriety. The price of her art skyrockets, and she, the silent patient, is hidden away from the tabloids and spotlight at the Grove, a secure forensic unit in North London.

Skipping Christmas by John Grisham - This title is available (Call number: Fic Gri) at the library and may be available through Interlibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: Luther and Nora Krank are fed up with the chaos of Christmas. The endless shopping lists, the frenzied dashes through the mall, the hassle of decorating the tree... where has all the joy gone? This year, celebrating seems like too much effort. With their only child off in Peru, they decide that just this once, they'll skip the holidays. They spend their Christmas budget on a Caribbean cruise set to sail on December 25, and happily settle in for a restful holiday season free of rooftop snowmen and festive parties. But the Kranks soon learn that their vacation from Christmas isn't much of a vacation at all, and that skipping the holidays has consequences they didn't bargain for...

The Sleeper and the Spindle by Neil Gaiman - This title is available (Call number: YA Fic Gai) at the library and may be available through Interlibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: In a beautiful collaboration, *New York Times* bestselling and Newbery and Carnegie Medal-winning author Neil Gaiman and Kate Greenaway-winning illustrator Chris

Riddell have created a thrillingly reimagined fairy tale, "told in a way only Gaiman can" and featuring "stunning metallic artwork" (GeekInsider.com). **The result is a beautiful and coveted edition of *The Sleeper and the Spindle* that the *Guardian* calls "a refreshing, much-needed twist on a classic story."**

Song for a Whale by Lynne Kelly- This title is not available at the library and may be available through Interlibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: From fixing the class computer to repairing old radios, twelve-year-old Iris is a tech genius. But she's the only deaf person in her school, so people often treat her like she's not very smart. If you've ever felt like no one was listening to you, then you know how hard that can be. When she learns about Blue 55, a real whale who is unable to speak to other whales, Iris understands how he must feel. Then she has an idea: she should invent a way to "sing" to him! But he's three thousand miles away. How will she play her song for him? Full of heart and poignancy, this affecting story by sign language interpreter Lynne Kelly shows how a little determination can make big waves.

The Stars Beneath Our Feet by David Barclay Moore- This title is not available at the library and may be available through Interlibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: It's Christmas Eve in Harlem, but twelve-year-old Lolly Rachpaul and his mom aren't celebrating. They're still reeling from his older brother's death in a gang-related shooting just a few months earlier. Then Lolly's mother's girlfriend brings him a gift that will change everything: two enormous bags filled with Legos. Lolly's always loved Legos, and he prides himself on following the kit instructions exactly. Now, faced with a pile of building blocks and no instructions, Lolly must find his own way forward.

Stardust by Neil Gaiman- This title is available (Call number: S F Gai) at the library and may be available through Interlibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: Tristran Thorn will do anything to win the cold heart of beautiful Victoria Forester—even fetch her the star they watch fall from the night sky. But to do so, he must enter the unexplored lands on the other side of the ancient wall that gives their tiny village its name. Beyond that stone barrier, Tristran learns, lies Faerie...and the most exhilarating adventure of the young man's life. From #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Neil Gaiman comes a tale of the dark and miraculous—a quest for true love and the utterly impossible.

That's Life: New and Selected Poems by Abbie Johnson Taylor- This title is not available at the library and may be available through Interlibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: *That's Life* is a collection of poems that celebrates the normal, the ordinary. In this book, beauty, peace, and happiness are found in everyday events and situations. **Abbie Johnson Taylor** also emphasizes the strength of the human mind and heart. Faced with difficult, stressful, and tragic circumstances, the subjects in this book nonetheless endure, thrive, and bask in happiness and hope.

Wonder by R.J. Palacio - This title is available (J Fic Pal) at the library and may be available through Interlibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: August Pullman was born with a facial difference that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face.

The 100 by Morgan Kass - This title is available (YA Fic Mor) at the library and may be available through Interlibrary Loan (depending on availability and lending library).

Summary: Ever since nuclear war destroyed our planet, humanity has been living on city-like spaceships hovering above the toxic surface. As far as anyone knows, no one has stepped foot on Earth in centuries--that is, until one hundred juvenile delinquents are sentenced to return and recolonize the hostile land. The future of the human race rests in their hands, but nothing can prepare the 100 for what they find on this strange and savage planet.