

### Apprentice in Death

By J.D. Robb

Set in 2080- not science fiction, but takes all of the things we're just getting into and they become part of the culture of the time. The guns and ammunition are way past what we'd conceive of today. They send blasts of electricity to people. The apprentice is 16- the daughter of a policeman and former military. The whole thing is riveting. There is considerable use of swear words.

### The Flame Bearer

By Bernard Cornwell

Series set in England in about 900 or so. There's a tremendous set of conflicted ideas between the Saxons, the Vikings, the Christians, the pagans, etc. The central character is a warrior leader who has about maybe 50 or 60 warriors who follow him. His aim is to recover a fort/castle that had belonged to his family and was his but was taken from him by a relative. This part of the series talks about one more attack on the place trying to get it back. Just gripping. Bernard Cornwell's understanding of the age and the landscape

### Barkskins

Ann Proulx

Saga of two families – starts in the 1600s and goes to the 1960s about the timber industry and the French coming to Nova Scotia. Fascinating. Beginning was a little hard to keep track of all the people. Also a lot about the mic mac and Penobscot natives. Events were pretty accurate to the history. Such a wonderful writer.

### The Secret Chord

Geraldine Brooks

Not sure yet what I really think of it. It's about the story of David. About King Saul and David killing Goliath and all the wars that went on in that area at the time. It's interesting, but not as good so far as her other ones.

### The Fifth Woman

Henning Wankel

Originally put off by all the violence in the Wallander series, but re-read them later. Very violent, and the characters are absolutely terrific. Fascinating and would recommend anything by him.

### The Thurber Carnival

James Thurber

Humorist and cartoonist. "The Thurber Carnival captures the depth of his talent and the breadth of his wit. The stories compiled here, almost all of which first appeared in *The New Yorker*, are from his uproarious and candid collection *My World and Welcome to It*—including the American classic "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty"—as well as from *The Owl in the Attic*, *The Seal in the Bathroom*, and *Men, Women and Dogs*."

### Last of the Breed

Louis L'Amour

Written just before the fall of the Soviet Union. "It is the compelling story of U.S. Air Force Major Joe Mack, a man born out of time. When his experimental aircraft is forced down in Russia and he escapes a Soviet prison camp, he must call upon the ancient skills of his Indian forebears to

survive the vast Siberian wilderness. Only one route lies open to Mack: the path of his ancestors, overland to the Bering Strait and across the sea to America. But in pursuit is a legendary tracker, the Yakut native Alekhin, who knows every square foot of the icy frontier—and who knows that to trap his quarry he must think like a Sioux.”

### The Last Painting of Sara De Vos

By Dominic Smith

"Written in prose so clear that we absorb its images as if by mind meld, "The Last Painting" is gorgeous storytelling: wry, playful, and utterly alive, with an almost tactile awareness of the emotional contours of the human heart. Vividly detailed, acutely sensitive to stratifications of gender and class, it's fiction that keeps you up at night — first because you're barreling through the book, then because you've slowed your pace to a crawl, savoring the suspense." —Boston Globe

### Scrappy Little Nobody

Anna Kendrick

"With her razor-sharp wit, Anna recounts the absurdities she's experienced on her way to and from the heart of pop culture as only she can—from her unusual path to the performing arts (Vanilla Ice and baggy neon pants may have played a role) to her double life as a middle-school student who also starred on Broadway to her initial "dating experiments" (including only liking boys who didn't like her back) to reviewing a binder full of butt doubles to her struggle to live like an adult woman instead of a perpetual "man-child."

Enter Anna's world and follow her rise from "scrappy little nobody" to somebody who dazzles on the stage, the screen, and now the page—with an electric, singular voice, at once familiar and surprising, sharp and sweet, funny and serious (well, not that serious)."