

BRANT AVENUE BOOKS

Recommends

151 Brant Avenue, Brantford, N3T 3H6 (519) 753-1570

A no-guff guide from people who love books

Anne's Selections

Eucalyptus

By Murray Bail

A witty, almost surreal, Australian story about trees, fathers and daughters, fairy tales and love. Elegantly written and with the most delicious ending I have read in a long time, a novel to remember. *Fiction*

More selections inside

Alannah's Selections

American Slang, 2nd Edition

By Robert Chapman

You need this book — you really do! From **Armpit n.** a very undesirable place; a geographical nadir to **Zoo daddy n.** a divorced or separated father who sees his children rarely and everything in between. Don't be an **El Cheapo** — buy this book for someone who loves words. An ideal companion volume for any or all of the lexicographical books listed.

Reference

More selections inside

Caroline's Selections

Canadian Encyclopedia Deluxe on CD-ROM

Loaded with five additional CD-ROM titles, the deluxe version of the Canadian Encyclopedia is the best reference purchase for your computer. In this package you get the 1999 Canadian Encyclopedia World Edition, which comes with 50,000 articles, audio and video clips, plus Lives and Times of the Prime Ministers, Stampville, Flypast, Land of the Inuit and Canadian Treasures. And much more.

More selections inside

Brant Avenue Books carries the best sellers and books you are reading about elsewhere. On these pages, Anne Westaway, Alannah McQuarrie and Caroline Freibauer have highlighted their favourites among books that you may not have seen advertised. Ask us about our Ardent Reader Discount Card program.

Brant Avenue Books Recommends

**JEANNETTE HAIEN DELIVERS
A NOVEL TO CURL UP WITH**

Matters of Chance

By Jeanette Haien

I found this a hugely satisfying old-fashioned read. Three generations of a family who accept the vagaries of fate with compassion and dignity. A novel to curl up with. *Fiction*

Pass the Polenta

By Teresa Lust

Simple, memorable writing about simple, memorable food by a professional cook. Essays and recipes. *Cooking and literature*

Rules of the Wild

By Francesca Marciana

A passionate intelligent love story set in Kenya. The heroine loves two men but east Africa is the book's most powerful character. A marvelous sense of place. *Fiction*

The Gardener's Atlas

By John Grimshaw

This very readable book takes you from plant hunting and discovery to the cultivars in your garden. Lots of colour photos, maps and drawings. Even better than seed catalogues for winter reading. *Gardening and science*

Uneasy Rider

By Mike Bryan

No scenic back roads in this deadpan road book. Mike Bryan meets amazing eccentrics right on the Interstates. Like all good travel books it is as much about the writer as it is about the people and the scenery. *Travel*

Winter Cordon Bleu

Soups, stews, tarts and puddings for when you come in from the cold. Rich warm photos make your mouth

water for comforting winter food.

This is a slim, accessible cookbook for the relatively serious cook.

Cooking

Don't Know Much About the Bible

By Kenneth Davis

A lucid, witty tour through the history, religion, sociology, and archeology of the bible. It's entertaining and easy to read. Great chapter headings: Was Jezebel really so bad? or Did Jesus obey his parents? *Religion*

Lucky Bastard

By Charles McCarty

How can a political genius with a zipper problem and a strong-willed wife run for president of the U.S.A.? This novel about intrigue, loyalty, danger and betrayal was written before the ML affair by a man who understands Washington like no other. Fun and Unput-downable. *Fiction*

Lucky You

By Carl Hiaasen

Black ecological activist JoLayne Luck, living in a town of suspicious miracles, shares a winning lottery number with two militia wannabes. Getting rich quick is never easy. This is Hiaasen at his wackiest, need I say more. *Mass market fiction*

The Magician's Tale

By David Hunt

Hunt has written an eerie noir featuring a colour-blind sleuth who uses her disability to explore the night. He tells a strange seductive story with well-drawn characters and tons of atmosphere, but it's a good puzzle, too. *Mass market fiction*

From the Holy Mountain

By William Dalrymple

Learned and witty this is serious travel writing at its best. Dalrymple guides us through the vast religious confusion, historical and contemporary of the Middle East, massacres, sacred carp, saints, heresies and all. I had all my reference books out to follow this amazing voyage from Constantinople to Cairo. *Travel/History*

The Essential Trudeau

By Trudeau and Graham

A straightforward compilation of Trudeau's political writings speeches and interviews. Easy to read and pungent. Ron Graham has edited a small but remarkable introduction to Trudeau's lifetime intellectual liberalism. *Politics*

Courtesans and Fishcakes

By James Davidson

A guided tour through food drink and sex in classical Athens. "This certainly ought to wake them up at the back of the class" — Sunday Times. *History*

Lancaster and York: The War of the Roses

By Alison Weir

Treachery, deceit, war, bankruptcy in 15th century England Serious book about the human side of history. Le plus ca change... *History*

A NOVEL TO BUY, READ AND GIVE TO A FRIEND

Heat Lighting

By Leah Hager Cohen

An exquisitely written coming-of-age story. The writing is rich beyond description. Mole, 11, and her sister Tilly, almost 13, live in a small town somewhere just barely south of Canada. In Mole, the author has created a character who surpasses the endearing Scout in *To Kill A Mockingbird*. A book so evocatively written that the reader will wish it never to end. Buy it! Read it! Give it to a friend! *Fiction*

About a Boy

By Nick Hornby

Hornby writes movingly and with no little wit about living a decent, humane life in 1990 Britain. Hip, thirty-something, cool, on-the-make bloke, reluctantly takes nerdish lad under his wing. A must! *Fiction*

The Professor and The Madman

By Simon Winchester

Words, violent passions and madness! A true story of the compilation of the OED in the 19th century and one of its principal contributors, Dr. Wm. Chester Minor, who was imprisoned in Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum. A highly entertaining and informative book! *Non-Fiction*

Voyage of The Narwhal

By Andrea Barrett

Fact interwoven with fiction in a brilliantly written book by the author of the award winning *Ship Fever*. A captivating story of Arctic exploration and the fascination the Arctic held for mid-19th century explorers. Eminently readable! *Fiction*

The Anatomist

By Frederico Andahazi

More discovery! Renaissance Italy is the locale. Mateo Columbo, the protagonist. Doctor, anatomist,

draughtsman, philosopher and explorer C Mateo is the epitome of a Renaissance man, and what a discovery he makes! A clever, enjoyable and sensual novel. *Fiction*

Swearing: A Social History of Foul Language, Oaths and Profanity in English.

By Geoffrey Hughes

Did you know that "bloody" was known in 1894 as "the Australian adjective"? In 1400, a favourable term for a woman was a "poppet", unfavourable terms included, "hag, wench, shrew, virago and filth". Want to know more? You must have a "slubberdegullion druggel" in your life who will appreciate this bit of history. *Reference*

East and West

By Chris Patten

The last governor of Hong Kong reveals his thoughts on China, and the tensions and drama of his final days in office. One of the most controversial books of the year. *Current Affairs*.

Why Zebras Don't Get Ulcers

By Robert M Sapolsky

A great stress reliever. A treasure chest filled with gems of anomalous information about ourselves and our world. You'll never look at an office parking lot the same way. *Psychology and Health*

The Evolution of Jane

By Cathleen Schine

Who says there is nothing to be learned from fiction? See Jane get a divorce. See Jane's mother send her to the Galapagos Islands. See Jane recover from the divorce. Witty, informative novel, liberally laced with dollops of Darwinism and a motley crew of adventurers. Irresistible! *Fiction*

New Oxford Dictionary of English

The new one-volume Oxford dictionary with each word defined and described. 350,000 definitions, 70,000 examples and 12,000 encyclopedic entries. Every home should have one! *Reference*

Tara Road

By Maeve Binchy

That old Binchy magic is still very much alive. The story of two women on opposite sides of the Atlantic, who radically affect each other by simply exchanging, for a few weeks, their houses, their neighbours and their lives. A good read! *Fiction*

Blood

By Douglas Starr

An interesting look at the darker side of the odd union of big business and medicine. Mr. Starr covers the usual milestones in the advancement of medicine but also suggests how the benefits to mankind have come about through a terrible price. A bloody good read. *Medical*

The Hand

By Frank R. Wilson

A unique perspective on human consciousness and the evolution of instrumental thinking as influenced by the evolution of the human hand. The interviews are interesting reading and provide an intimate view of the creative psyche. Keep this book at hand. *Non-fiction*

PULLMAN'S A MASTER OF HIGH FANTASY AND INTENSE EMOTION

A prolific author, Philip Pullman has written everything from novels, to plays to picture books. The British middle school teacher has recently gained North American notoriety with his new trilogy which begins with the **Golden Compass**, a masterful tale of high fantasy and intense emotion. When this book came out he was compared with other great fantasy writers such as J.R.R. Tolkien. The second installment, **A Subtle Knife**, is now out in paperback. The third and final book is slated for publication next year. Pullman has become so popular in North America that his older works are now being released here. Watch for **Count Karlstein**, which as been described as a playful suspense thriller. Eleven and older.

The 20th Century Children's Book Treasury

Selected by Janet Schulman
A collection of 44 of the most beloved stories and picture books of our time. They're all here — award winners and family favorites — beautifully displayed with their original illustrations. They include old friends — Madeline, Babar and Curious George — alongside classic tales — Good Night Moon, Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day and D.W. The Picky Eater. The authors and illustrators read like a who's who of children's literature — Helen Oxenbury, Stan and Jan Berenstain and Maurice Sendak. This is a must-have anthology for children of all ages.

Sun, Moon and Stars

By Mary Hoffman and Jane Ray
More than 20 myths and legends about the sky, the sun, the moon and stars are compiled and retold in this elegantly illustrated book. Hoffman explores tales from cultures around the world, taking from the Norse, Egyptian, Hindu, Navajo and many more. Ray's lavish illustrations, rich with silver and gold, perfectly complement the stories. A treasure for children eight and older.

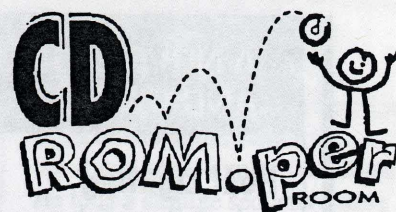
Don't forget the **Complete Tales of Winnie-the-Pooh** and the **Complete Poems of Winnie-the-Pooh**. Two beautiful volumes for the well-read preschool crowd.

Christmas with Teddy Bear

By Jacqueline McQuade
A heart-warming Christmas favorite has now been released in a cosy, board book format. This book is three stories in one. A few words in easy-to-read oversized print tell the simple tale of Teddy's preparations for Christmas. A more detailed text is provided for adults and confident readers. And the illustrations tell their own version of Teddy's excitement during the festive season and his love for family and cat. For children of all ages.

SCRIMGER WRITES IN A HUMOUROUS EASY-TO-READ, GOTTA-LOVE-IT STYLE

Richard Scrimger, a stay-at-home father of four, burst onto the kid lit scene this year with two new books. **The Nose from Jupiter** is a funny, thought-provoking story about an alien from Jupiter who takes up residence in a boy's nose. Sounds unlikely, but Scrimger makes it believable. His newest, **The Way to Schenectady**, is also written in the same, humorous, easy-to-read, gotta-love-it style. Schenectady is about a car trip that takes a hilarious detour when the family meets a kind, penniless, old man with a problem. Perfect for readers, aged 8 to 14.



Software is a great option for Christmas. It's fun and can be educational, too.

Some of my favourites for this season include almost anything by Humungous Entertainment. Their **Pyjama Sam** line is a blast and their two sports titles for the middle-school crowd — **Backyard Baseball** and **Backyard Soccer** — can be played over and over again.

Speaking of sports, Purple Moon has produced a few new titles in their Rockett line including **The Starfire Soccer Challenge**.

Older kids might want to try their hand at programming software with Interplay's **Learn to Program Basic**, the Junior High Edition.

Don't forget we have lots of specialty titles for music and French enthusiasts.

If you don't see what you want, we'll special order it for you.