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E-Reader 1: Popular Fiction 1: (Nook 1)

1) Betrayal by Danielle Steel: In Danielle Steel's thrilling new novel, a successful woman's seemingly perfect world is shattered when she faces embezzlement by the last person she would ever suspect.

BETRAYAL

At thirty-nine, Tallie Jones is a Hollywood legend. Her work as a film director is her passion and the center of her life; one after another, her award-winning productions achieve the rare combination of critical and commercial success. With no interest in the perks of her profession or the glitz and glamour of Los Angeles, Tallie maintains close and loving relationships with her college-age daughter and her aging father, and has a happy collaboration with Hunter Lloyd, her respected producing partner, confidant, and live-in lover. Rounding out the circle and making it all work is Brigitte Parker, Tallie's devoted personal assistant. Friends since film school, they are a study in contrasts, with Brigitte's polished glamour balancing Tallie's artless natural beauty, and her hard-driving, highly organized style a protective shield for Tallie's casual, down-to-earth approach.

As Tallie is in the midst of directing the most ambitious film she has yet undertaken, small disturbances begin to ripple through her well-ordered world. An outside audit reveals troubling discrepancies in the financial records maintained by Victor Carson, Tallie's longtime, trusted accountant. Mysterious receipts hint at activities of which she has no knowledge. Soon it becomes clear that someone close to Tallie has been steadily funneling away enormous amounts of her money. In the wake of an escalating series of shattering revelations, Tallie will find herself playing the most dangerous game of all—to trap a predator stalking her in plain sight.

In this riveting novel, Danielle Steel reveals the dark side of fame and fortune. At the same time, she brilliantly captures a woman's will to navigate a minefield of hurt and loss—toward a new beginning."

2) Private Games by James Patterson: "Overview On your mark Private, the world's most renowned investigation firm, has been commissioned to provide security for the 2012 Olympic Games in London. Its agents are the smartest, fastest, and most technologically advanced in the world, and 400 of them have been transferred to London to protect more than 10,000 competitors who represent more than 200 countries.

Get set

The opening ceremony is hours away when Private investigator and single father of twins, Peter Knight, is called to the scene of a ruthless murder. A high-ranking member of the games' organizing committee

has been killed. It's clear to Peter that this wasn't a crime of passion, but one of precise calculation and execution.

Die

Newspaper reporter Karen Pope receives a letter from a person who calls himself Cronus claiming responsibility for the murders. He promises to restore the Olympics to their ancient glory and to destroy all those who have corrupted the games with lies, corruption, and greed. Immediately, Karen hires Private to examine the letter, and she and Peter uncover a criminal genius who won't stop until he's completely destroyed the modern games."

3) Lost Years by Mary Higgins Clark: In *The Lost Years*, Mary Higgins Clark, America's Queen of Suspense, has written her most astonishing novel to date. At its center is a discovery that, if authenticated, may be the most revered document in human history—"the holiest of the holy"—and certainly the most coveted and valuable object in the world.

Biblical scholar Jonathan Lyons believes he has found the rarest of parchments—a letter that may have been written by Jesus Christ. Stolen from the Vatican Library in the 1500s, the letter was assumed to be lost forever.

Now, under the promise of secrecy, Jonathan is able to confirm his findings with several other experts. But he also confides in a family friend his suspicion that someone he once trusted wants to sell the parchment and cash in.

Within days Jonathan is found shot to death in his study. At the same time, his wife, Kathleen, who is suffering from Alzheimer's, is found hiding in the study closet, incoherent and clutching the murder weapon. Even in her dementia, Kathleen has known that her husband was carrying on a long-term affair. Did Kathleen kill her husband in a jealous rage, as the police contend? Or is his death tied to the larger question: Who has possession of the priceless parchment that has now gone missing?

It is up to their daughter, twenty-eight-year-old Mariah, to clear her mother of murder charges and unravel the real mystery behind her father's death. Mary Higgins Clark's *The Lost Years* is at once a breathless murder mystery and a hunt for what may be the most precious religious and archaeological treasure of all time.

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E-Reader 2: Popular Non-Fiction 1: (Nook 2)

1) Steve Jobs: The Biography by Walter Isaacson : It is difficult to read the opening pages of Walter Isaacson's *Steve Jobs* without feeling melancholic. Jobs retired at the end of August and died about six weeks later. Now, just weeks after his death, you can open the book that bears his name and read about his youth, his promise, and his relentless press to succeed. But the initial sadness in starting the book is soon replaced by something else, which is the intensity of the read--mirroring the intensity of Jobs's focus and vision for his products. Few in history have transformed their time like Steve Jobs, and one could argue that he stands with the Fords, Edisons, and Gutenbergs of the world. This is a timely and complete portrait that pulls no punches and gives insight into a man whose contradictions were in many ways his greatest strength. --Chris Schlupe, Amazon.com

2) Imagine: How Creativity Works by Jonah Lehrer by Jonah Lehrer: Combining cutting-edge neurological research with the age-old mystery of how and when inspiration strikes, Jonah Lehrer's *Imagine: How Creativity Works* is a fun, engaging study of creativity. Lehrer uses case studies like 3M's and Pixar's innovative corporate cultures and Bob Dylan's songwriting habits to frame scientific findings about the brain and where creativity comes from. You won't find exercises to help you think more creatively or ways to avoid creative blocks in this book. Instead, you'll learn how and why creativity is stimulated by certain activities—like looking at the color blue, traveling, or daydreaming productively—and how these activities stimulate creativity in everyone, not just in 'creative' people. Lehrer's focus is as wide and fascinating as his topic itself and there's something to engage every reader, no matter where you rate yourself on the creativity spectrum. --Malissa Kent, Amazon.com

3) Power of Habit: Why We Do What We Do in Life and Business by Charles Duhigg According to Duhigg (investigative reporter, New York Times), if people can understand how behaviors became habits, they can restructure those patterns in more constructive ways. He presents information on habit formation and change from academic studies, interviews with scientists and executives, and research conducted in dozens of companies. Three sections deal with the neurology of habit formation in individuals, the habits of successful companies and organizations, and the habits of societies and tough

ethical issues. Duhigg offers a fascinating analysis for the college-educated reader. Library Journal review

E-Reader 3: Popular Young Adult: (Nook 3)

The Hunger Games Trilogy by Suzanne Collins: The extraordinary, ground breaking New York Times bestsellers *The Hunger Games* and *Catching Fire*, along with the third book in *The Hunger Games* trilogy by Suzanne Collins, *Mockingjay* in this e-book omnibus edition. Barnes & Noble synopsis.

E-Reader 4: Critically Acclaimed Titles: (Nook 4):

1) Escape from Camp 14 Blaine Harden: One Man's Remarkable Odyssey from North Korea to Freedom in the West: The shocking story of one of the few people born in a North Korean political prison to have escaped and survived.

North Korea is isolated and hungry, bankrupt and belligerent. It is also armed with nuclear weapons. Between 150,000 and 200,000 people are being held in its political prison camps, which have existed twice as long as Stalin's Soviet gulags and twelve times as long as the Nazi concentration camps. Very few born and raised in these camps have escaped. But Shin Donghyuk did.

In *Escape from Camp 14*, acclaimed journalist Blaine Harden tells the story of Shin Dong-hyuk and through the lens of Shin's life unlocks the secrets of the world's most repressive totalitarian state. Shin knew nothing of civilized existence—he saw his mother as a competitor for food, guards raised him to be a snitch, and he witnessed the execution of his own family. Through Harden's harrowing narrative of Shin's life and remarkable escape, he offers an unequalled inside account of one of the world's darkest nations and a riveting tale of endurance, courage, and survival." From the publisher and recommended by NPR.

2) Immobility by Brian Evenson: Stories about the end of the world are as old as literature itself. From the tale of Noah's Ark to the plague-ravaged landscapes of Mary Shelley's controversial 1826 novel *The Last Man*, writers have long held a morbid fascination with the possibility of a future apocalypse.

It was all fantasy, of course, until August 1945, when the world learned the threat of widespread destruction was much more real than anyone could have imagined. After the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, post-apocalyptic literature, and humanity itself, would never be the same. As Josef Horkai, the anti-hero of Brian Evenson's new novel *Immobility*, reflects: ""We say no to sixty-six thousand dead in a single bomb blast over a defenseless foreign city, and then we do it again, a hundred thousand this time. ... Humans are poison. Perhaps it would be better if we did not exist at all.""

Immobility takes place years after ""the Kollaps,"" an unspecified cataclysm that decimated the planet, leaving only a handful of people barely alive and the world transformed into a hellscape: ""no living thing, not even a cockroach, nothing but wrack and ruin ... marks of calamity, terror, distress."" Josef Horkai doesn't remember much about what happened — he's been kept in suspended animation for years, possibly decades, and awakened by a mysterious group of survivors keeping shelter in the ruins of a university. He's paralyzed from the waist down, but that doesn't stop the group's leader from asking

him to go on a cryptic mission to steal a vitally important cylinder from a mountainside fortress, miles away. With the help of two men who take turns carrying him, Horkai reluctantly sets out across the desert to find the precious container.

If there's a novel that Evenson was born to write, this is the one. The author is well-known both for his challenging, postmodern fiction — think David Foster Wallace and Blake Butler — and the mainstream science fiction he writes under the name B.K. Evenson. In *Immobility*, he draws from both literary traditions to create a driving, terrifying tale that wavers between despair and hope, nihilism and an almost religious sense of possible redemption. Valerie Evenson review /Courtesy Tor Books and recommended by NPR.

Brian Evenson is the author of *The Wavering Knife* and *Last Days* and the director of Brown University's Literary Arts Program.

Evenson's prose is, as usual, perfect — intelligent but unpretentious, and perfectly evocative of a barren, brutal world that's been mostly given up for dead. He doesn't pull punches when he describes the cruelty of the wasteland that the planet has become — in one chilling scene, he describes the corpse of a man, his head, forearms and lower legs amputated, nailed to the front of a ruined hospital. It's an image that perfectly encapsulates the savagery of the new world; like the novel itself, it's merciless and unforgettable.

Immobility is not, of course, the first book to consider the life of the planet after a global annihilation, but it's also a novel without any obvious antecedents. There are thematic similarities to Walter M. Miller Jr.'s *A Canticle for Leibowitz* and Cormac McCarthy's *The Road*, but Evenson's vision is as unique as he is. It's not an easy book to read, but it's an undeniably important look at what we're at risk of becoming — a nightmare world without hope, reason or compassion. "It's never fair," as Horkai says. "Why should it be?"

3) Day in the Life of a Smiling Woman by Margaret Drabble: Margaret Drabble's novels have illuminated the past fifty years, especially the changing lives of women, like no others. Yet her short fiction has its own unique brilliance. Her penetrating evocations of character and place, her wide-ranging curiosity, her sense of irony—all are on display here, in stories that explore marriage, female friendships, the English tourist abroad, love affairs with houses, peace demonstrations, gin and tonics, cultural TV programs, in stories that are perceptive, sharp, and funny. With an introduction by the Spanish academic José Fernández that places the stories in the context of her life and her novels, this collection is a wonderful recapitulation of a masterly career. -- NPR Review

E-Reader 5: Science Fiction & Fantasy: (Nook 5):

1) Wind Through The Keyhole by Stephen King: In *The Wind Through the Keyhole*, Stephen King returns to the rich landscape of Mid-World, the spectacular territory of the Dark Tower fantasy saga that stands as his most beguiling achievement.

Roland Deschain and his ka-tet—Jake, Susannah, Eddie, and Oy, the billy-bumbler—encounter a ferocious storm just after crossing the River Whye on their way to the Outer Baronies. As they shelter from the howling gale, Roland tells his friends not just one strange story but two . . . and in so doing, casts new light on his own troubled past.

In his early days as a gunslinger, in the guilt-ridden year following his mother's death, Roland is sent by his father to investigate evidence of a murderous shape-shifter, a "skin-man" preying upon the population around Debaria. Roland takes charge of Bill Streeter, the brave but terrified boy who is the sole surviving witness to the beast's most recent slaughter. Only a teenager himself, Roland calms the boy and prepares him for the following day's trials by reciting a story from the Magic Tales of the Eld that his mother often read to him at bedtime. "A person's never too old for stories," Roland says to Bill. "Man and boy, girl and woman, never too old. We live for them." And indeed, the tale that Roland unfolds, the legend of Tim Stoutheart, is a timeless treasure for all ages, a story that lives for us.

King began the Dark Tower series in 1974; it gained momentum in the 1980s; and he brought it to a thrilling conclusion when the last three novels were published in 2003 and 2004. *The Wind Through the Keyhole* is sure to fascinate avid fans of the Dark Tower epic. But this novel also stands on its own for all readers, an enchanting and haunting journey to Roland's world and testimony to the power of Stephen King's storytelling magic." --Publishers Weekly Review

2) *Unholy Night* by Seth Graham Green: The genius of mashup revisionism (*Pride and Prejudice* and *Zombies*) turns the Three Kings into escaped thieves who have come upon the glowy manger by accident. When Herod starts slaughtering the Innocents, the thieves reluctantly agree to help the Holy Family escape to Egypt. Doubtless some readers will be offended, but bound to be in demand. -- Library Journal Review

3) *Joe Golem and the Drowning City* by Mike Mignola: An adolescent orphan navigates a subterranean world of magic and technology with the help of an aged detective and his mysterious square-jawed protector. There's an appetite out there for these sorts of propulsive, fantasy-rich mash-ups of steampunk and mythic literature, as evidenced by the likes of the video game *Bioshock* and Alan Moore's *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*. But few combine literary sincerity and fun as well as Mignola (creator of the comic-book superhero *Hellboy*) and sometime collaborator Golden (*Baltimore*, or, *The Steadfast Tin Soldier and the Vampire*, 2007, etc.). Here the pair construct a rich world ripe for sequels and prequels. In their version of New York City, a cataclysm flooded the place in 1925, sinking Lower Manhattan in what has become known as "The Drowning City." An elderly necromancer named Felix Orlov has taken 14-year-old redhead Molly McHugh under his protection. When malevolent gas-masked intruders attack, Molly is saved by an enormous boxer-nosed brute named Joe. It turns out that Joe works for an ancient Holmesian detective, Simon Church, who inspired dozens of stories and novels but whose real work is keeping tabs on the city's occult activity. "Give me honest ghosts, a vampire hungry for blood, boggarts that eat children...that's more my area," says Church. "Not this vast, unknowable cosmic lunacy." For decades, Church has been hunting the malevolent Dr. Cocteau, a brilliant and elusive villain who's gotten his hands on a powerful artifact called Lector's Pentajumlum. Steely-eyed but an amnesiac, Joe instinctually becomes Molly's protector, but the dreams of this

Croatian behemoth are of killing witches, a tidbit that becomes important later in the story. With Jules Verne technology, ghosts, magic and multidimensional monsters, it doesn't fall that far from Mignola's Hellboy origins, but it's an awfully fun way to pass an afternoon. Mignola's affectionate, Kirby-esque portraits compliment Golden's imaginative, YA-friendly prose. – Kirkus Review

E-Reader 6: Popular Fiction 2: (Nook 6)

Shades of Grey Trilogy by E. L. James "All three books in this spicy series are currently in the top five on the NYT Bestseller list (4-22-12); here's the summary of Book 1: Overview: When literature student Anastasia Steele goes to interview young entrepreneur Christian Grey, she encounters a man who is beautiful, brilliant, and intimidating. The unworldly, innocent Ana is startled to realize she wants this man and, despite his enigmatic reserve, finds she is desperate to get close to him. Unable to resist Ana's quiet beauty, wit, and independent spirit, Grey admits he wants her, too—but on his own terms.

Shocked yet thrilled by Grey's singular erotic tastes, Ana hesitates. For all the trappings of success—his multinational businesses, his vast wealth, his loving family—Grey is a man tormented by demons and consumed by the need to control. When the couple embarks on a daring, passionately physical affair, Ana discovers Christian Grey's secrets and explores her own dark desires.

Erotic, amusing, and deeply moving, the Fifty Shades Trilogy is a tale that will obsess you, possess you, and stay with you forever." – From the publisher

E-Reader 7: Mysteries: (Nook 7):

1) Elegy for Eddie by Jacqueline Winspear: Set in 1933, bestseller Winspear's excellent ninth novel featuring London investigator and psychologist Maisie Dobbs represents a welcome return to form after 2011's less inspired *A Lesson in Secrets*. Five men Maisie hasn't seen since girlhood break the sad news that Eddie Pettit, another friend Maisie hasn't seen in years, died when a huge roll of paper fell on him in the paper factory where he ran errands. The gentle Eddie, who was considered slow, had a remarkable talent for relating to horses. The five, who suspect Eddie's death was no accident, retain Maisie to find out what really happened. The case comes at an emotionally turbulent time for Maisie, who's ambivalent about her relationship with wealthy James Compton and has begun to question the reasons for her own many acts of charity. The involved plot is as good as any in the series, and the resolution is intelligently complex. –Publishers Weekly Review

2) Beastly Things by Donna Leon: In bestseller Leon's complex, contemplative 21st Commissario Guido Brunetti mystery (after 2011's *Drawing Conclusions*), the Venetian police inspector must identify a man found stabbed to death and floating in a canal. Unusually, the victim suffered from a rare disease that disfigures the body and is linked to alcoholism, though the pathologist determines he wasn't a drinker. Brunetti soon discovers that the man was a veterinarian, Andrea Nava, who also worked part-time at a slaughterhouse inspecting the health of the animals brought in by the local farmers. Despite his recent

separation from his wife after a tryst with a co-worker, Nava appears to have been a compassionate human being. But when Brunetti visits the slaughterhouse and begins to examine how it operates, the inspector comes to some unsettling conclusions about the murdered man, the motive, and his own life. Leon deftly blends police procedural with philosophy and existential speculation. Her intimate descriptions of Venice, where she has lived for 30 years, lend color.-- Publishers Weekly Review

3) One Red Bastard by Ed Lin: Tensions in America's relationship with China and Taiwan form the backdrop for Lin's compelling third mystery featuring Chinese-American Robert Chow of the NYPD (after 2010's *Snakes Can't Run*). By the fall of 1976, Chow has moved on from being the department's token to real policing, but his personal and professional lives collide when his journalist girlfriend, Lonnie, becomes the prime suspect in a case with potential international repercussions. Chen Xiaochuan, the official representative for Mao Tse-tung's daughter, who's seeking asylum in the States, is bludgeoned to death in a Chinatown park, and Lonnie is the last person known to have seen him after interviewing him for her newspaper. Possible motives can be found all over the political spectrum, complicating the investigation. Lin offers a vivid picture of an earlier Manhattan Chinatown than S.J. Rozan, whose fans are likely to warm to the street-savvy Chow, still coming to grips with the horrors of his Vietnam War tour of duty. Author tour. Agent: Kirby Kim, William Morris.

It's 1976. The Republic of China and the People's Republic of China duel by proxy, pulling NYPD Officer Robert Chow into their murderous wake. As Taiwan and Beijing jockey for position in the diplomatic game that will determine which of them the U.S. will recognize as the real China, word comes that the late Mao Tse-tung's daughter Li Na is seeking asylum in America. It seems like a plum when Robert's girlfriend Lonnie, a Newswire reporter, snags an interview with Chen Xiaochuan, Li's representative, but everything goes haywire when Chen is found bashed to death in Roosevelt Park, his finger severed, soon afterward. Miraculously, the cops don't arrest Lonnie, even though she was the last person to see Chen alive. But clouds of suspicion form around her, her own news organization stops running her stories and Robert, who's already under official pressure to clear the case, finds himself even more motivated. His rounds take him not only to representatives of both regimes but among such sharply differentiated figures as agitator Lincoln Chen, aka "Mr. Revolution"; "anti-Chinese Chinaman" Byron Su; and Artie Yee, who seems curiously unconcerned that someone's torched the offices of Inside Chinatown before it could cover the big story. The mystery is both confusing and obvious, but Lin (*Snakes Can't Run*, 2010, etc.) has a rewardingly sharp eye for both the issues that divide the denizens of New York's Chinatown and the features that bind them together, as Robert continues to be bound to his ex-girlfriend Barbara, in spite of it all." - Kirkus Review

E-Reader 8: Non-Fiction 2: (Nook Group 8):

1) Krupp: A History of the Legendary German Firm by Harold James: 'Four generations of the Krupp family have owned and operated the great armament and munitions plants which have been the chief source of Germany's war supplies. For over 130 years this family has been the focus, the symbol, and the beneficiary of the most sinister forces engaged in menacing the peace of Europe.'" With this sweeping condemnation, Justice Robert Jackson of the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg in 1945 denounced not only Gustav Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach, the family member at the company helm

during the buildup to and early years of World War II, but also the German industrialist clan in its historical entirety.

The Krupp legend—family and company alike—as the arch-industrialists, über-armorers, political puppet masters and war-profiteers of modern German history was popularized in 1968 with journalist William Manchester's provocative exposé, ""The Arms of Krupp."" For Manchester, Krupp was the embodiment of the devious corporatism and inherent bellicosity that defined the Prussian and Nazi nature.

Harold James, professor of history and international affairs at Princeton University, portrays a vastly different organization in ""Krupp,"" a painstaking chronicle of a company that traces its roots to a steel foundry in Essen in 1810. Mr. James's Krupp is a company for which the manufacturing of war matériel was always of secondary interest to that of civilian production. The company might have preferred to concentrate on manufacturing railroad equipment and consumer goods, but in the developing and expansionist German empire of the 19th century, state requirements for the tools of power dovetailed with Krupp's desire for regular long-term contracts. The result for Krupp was a practical, if not deliberate, focus on armaments.

From the manufacturer's perspective, the emphasis on war matériel did not consign Krupp to the ranks of belligerent militarists; it was just smart business. ""The purpose of work should be the common good,"" founder Alfred Krupp once said, or at least that quote graces a statue the company erected after his death in 1887. All through the 19th century, Mr. James says, the pursuit of profit was less central to the Krupp mission than building a solid enterprise within a framework of social responsibility. As early as 1836, Krupp established a voluntary health-insurance program for its workers. By the middle of the century, life-insurance and pension plans had been instituted. Workers' hostels and company hospitals were constructed. In exchange for this paternalistic benevolence, Krupp expected complete loyalty from its work force and vehemently opposed the slightest hint of union organization or political activity among its employees.

""Alfred Krupp perfectly fits the mold of the heroic entrepreneur,"" Mr. James writes. ""Profoundly skeptical of joint-stock companies, banks, and capitalism in general, but also of big-scale science and modern research methods, he was a genius at extending to its utmost limits the possibilities of the craft entrepreneur." - Wall Street Journal Review

2) President's Club: Inside The World's Most Exclusive Fraternity by Nancy Gibbs: Two Time magazine editors chart the zigzag arc of relationships among the men who have occupied the White House since the mid 20th century. With their knowledge of the territory of presidential politics and personality, Gibbs and Duffy (co-authors: *The Preacher and the Presidents: Billy Graham in the White House*, 2007) assemble a compelling account of their tangled relationships. When Truman called on Hoover to help with post-World War II recovery in Germany, the latter was in political purgatory, reviled by his own party. Throughout this massive work, the authors present numerous instances of presidents warming to their predecessors in surprising ways. Sometimes mutual admiration was already in place (Truman and Eisenhower--though it later disintegrated); sometimes, antipathy (Clinton and Bush II). But almost

always the sitting presidents found in their predecessors some solace, willing ears and sound advice. Jimmy Carter emerges as a loose cannon, combining vast international experience (and a deep humanity) with a maverick spirit and a yearning for the limelight that caused some of his successors to cringe and curse. (Oddly, the authors do not say much about Carter's relationships with Bush II or Obama.) JFK turned to Ike at crucial times (Bay of Pigs); Clinton and Nixon developed a close relationship, though Nixon once threatened to write a negative op-ed if Clinton did not consult him about Nixon's upcoming trip to Russia. It was Reagan, write Gibbs and Duffy, who first called Nixon back from exile. Gerald Ford emerges as a genial soul, telling scandal-ridden Clinton that he'd better confess his lies. Perhaps the closest of all relationships was between Clinton and Bush I, a friendship literally birthed by a tsunami. In a well-researched, disinterested analysis, the authors show that collisions of ego, personality and politics can often result in creation, not destruction." - Kirkus Review

3) Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty by Daron Acemoglu: Two Time magazine editors chart the zigzag arc of relationships among the men who have occupied the White House since the mid 20th century. With their knowledge of the territory of presidential politics and personality, Gibbs and Duffy (co-authors: *The Preacher and the Presidents: Billy Graham in the White House*, 2007) assemble a compelling account of their tangled relationships. When Truman called on Hoover to help with post–World War II recovery in Germany, the latter was in political purgatory, reviled by his own party. Throughout this massive work, the authors present numerous instances of presidents warming to their predecessors in surprising ways. Sometimes mutual admiration was already in place (Truman and Eisenhower--though it later disintegrated); sometimes, antipathy (Clinton and Bush II). But almost always the sitting presidents found in their predecessors some solace, willing ears and sound advice. Jimmy Carter emerges as a loose cannon, combining vast international experience (and a deep humanity) with a maverick spirit and a yearning for the limelight that caused some of his successors to cringe and curse. (Oddly, the authors do not say much about Carter's relationships with Bush II or Obama.) JFK turned to Ike at crucial times (Bay of Pigs); Clinton and Nixon developed a close relationship, though Nixon once threatened to write a negative op-ed if Clinton did not consult him about Nixon's upcoming trip to Russia. It was Reagan, write Gibbs and Duffy, who first called Nixon back from exile. Gerald Ford emerges as a genial soul, telling scandal-ridden Clinton that he'd better confess his lies. Perhaps the closest of all relationships was between Clinton and Bush I, a friendship literally birthed by a tsunami. In a well-researched, disinterested analysis, the authors show that collisions of ego, personality and politics can often result in creation, not destruction. - Kirkus Review

E-Reader 9: Romance: (Nook 9):

1) The Marriage Bargain by Jennifer Probst: A marriage in name only...To save her family home, impulsive bookstore owner, Alexa Maria McKenzie, casts a love spell. But she never planned on conjuring up her best friend's older brother—the powerful man who once shattered her heart.

Billionaire Nicholas Ryan doesn't believe in marriage, but in order to inherit his father's corporation, he needs a wife and needs one fast. When he discovers his sister's childhood friend is in dire financial straits, he offers Alexa a bold proposition.

A marriage in name only with certain rules: Avoid entanglement. Keep things all business. Do not fall in love. The arrangement is only for a year so the rules shouldn't be that hard to follow, right?

Except fate has a way of upsetting the best-laid plans..." – From the publisher

2) Turn in the Road by Debbie Macomber: In the middle of the year, in the middle of her life, Bethanne Hamlin takes a road trip with her daughter, Annie, and her former mother-in-law, Ruth.

They're driving to Florida for Ruth's 50th high school reunion. A longtime widow, Ruth would like to reconnect with Royce, the love of her teenage life. She's heard he's alone, too....

Bethanne needs time to reflect on a decision she has to make—whether or not to reconcile with her ex-husband, Grant, her children's father.

Meanwhile, Annie's out to prove to her onetime boyfriend that she can live a brilliant life without him!

So there they are, three women driving across America. They have their maps and their directions—but even the best-planned journey can take you to a turn in the road. Or lead to an unexpected encounter—like the day Bethanne meets a man named Max...." - From the publisher

3) Redwood Bend by Robin Carr: Katie Malone and her twin boys' trip along the beautiful mountain roads to Virgin River is stopped short by a tire as flat as her failed romance. To make matters worse, the rain has set in, the boys are hungry and Katie is having trouble putting on a spare. As she stands at the side of the road pondering her next move, she hears a distinct rumble. The sight of the sexy, leather-clad bikers who pull up beside her puts her imagination into overdrive.

Dylan Childress and his buddies are on the motorcycle trip of a lifetime. But the sight of a woman in distress stops them in their tracks. And while the guys are checking out her car, she and Dylan are checking out one another.

In one brief moment, the world tilts on its axis and any previous plans Katie and Dylan might have had for their futures are left at the side of the road." -- Publishers Weekly review

E-Reader 10: Action/Adventure/Thrillers : (Nook 10):

1) Ashes to Dust: A Thriller by Yrsa Sigurdardottir: Sigurdardóttir's excellent third thriller featuring lawyer Thóra Gudmundsdóttir should win this talented Icelandic author new fans. In 1973, a volcanic eruption on Iceland's Heimaey Island buried a number of houses in lava, including that of Markús Magnusson, who was 15 at the time. In 2007, an excavation of his childhood home reveals three bodies and a severed head that appear to be decades old. Markús tells the police he knows nothing about the bodies, but the single person who could have verified his version of events is found dead, her apparent suicide soon revealed as murder. With the searchlight of suspicion cast on his affairs, Markús must rely on Thóra, his determined lawyer, to defend his interests. Sigurdardóttir uses Iceland's past and present to full effect in this tale of hidden crimes and family secrets. Even those unfamiliar with this volcanic island nation will find themselves entranced.-- Publishers Weekly review

2) Scarecrow Returns by Matthew Riley: A secret Russian facility in the Arctic has been seized by a team of elite commandos calling themselves the Army of Thieves. In four hours, the terrorists will launch the facility's doomsday missile, which will set the atmosphere of the Northern Hemisphere on fire. Capt. Shane Schofield (Ice Station; Area 7; Scarecrow), also known as Scarecrow, is called in to stop the deadly plot. Unfortunately, he and his team are about three hours away. VERDICT Reilly is the king of the action thriller, and he has written his best book in years. The relentless pace will leave the reader breathless. Fans who enjoy military fiction and blockbuster summer action movies will love the adrenaline rush.

3) The Inquisitor: A Novel by Mark Smith: Information retrieval takes on a sinister cast in Smith's mesmerizing thriller debut, whose hero, Geiger (aka "the Inquisitor"), makes his living torturing the truth out of people. When client Richard Hall, an agent for a private art collector, shows up at a Manhattan hideout with 12-year-old Ezra Matheson instead of the intended target, Ezra's father, who's stolen a valuable de Kooning from the collector, it triggers a protective instinct in Geiger. Rather than torturing the boy about his father's whereabouts, Geiger takes the boy and goes on the run; Hall and his cohorts follow in hot pursuit. Smith tantalizes the reader with bits about the enigmatic Geiger's past as well as his present. Graphic descriptions of torture coolly administered by Geiger show him to be a decidedly warped character, but he's also a fascinating piece of work as he copes with the deadly agents determined to recapture Ezra. This may be the most unusual and talked about thriller of the season. - Library Journal review