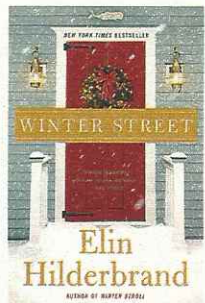


5 paperbacks we're reading

Holiday



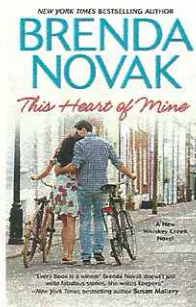
Winter Street
by Elin Hilderbrand
“Every year around this time, I head to the store to pick up a Christmas-themed book to get me in the holiday spirit,”

says Patty Bontekoe, FIRST deputy editor. “And last weekend I lucked out with this heartwarming pick by one of my favorite authors.” Kelley Quinn owns a quaint inn on Nantucket and is looking forward to having his four grown children return home for the holidays. But instead of the calm and peaceful holiday he was hoping for, he’s left dealing with all kinds of problems: He walks in on his wife kissing Santa Claus and all the kids have a lot of drama going on in their own lives. “I loved reading about the family’s struggles and how they helped one another through it all,” says Patty. “As I turned the last page, I couldn’t stop thinking about the characters. Plus, I just found out there’s a sequel: *Winter Stroll*. I know what I’ll be reading next!” (Back Bay, 2015; Paperback \$15, Hardcover \$25, Kindle \$10, Nook \$10)

Romance

This Heart of Mine
by Brenda Novak
“When it comes to holiday traveling and handling all the flight delays and detours that are bound to come my way, I’ve found that the best remedy

for the stress is to have a fun book handy,” says Lorraine Sullivan, FIRST editor-at-large. “This story about love lost—and found—helped keep me in a good mood.” Phoenix, a young woman who was imprisoned for a crime she didn’t commit, has just been paroled and only wants to clear her name and get to know her teenage son. The hitch: Her former high-school sweetheart and father of her child, Riley, wants nothing to do with her—or does he? Soon Riley finds himself remembering all the reasons he fell in love with Phoenix years ago. “I’m a sucker for a good tale about redemption and second chances,” says Lorraine. “This one had such beautiful details that it captured my full attention—and had me sniffing and smiling while waiting to board my plane.” (Mira, 2015, Paperback \$8, Kindle \$7, Nook \$7)



Historical nonfiction

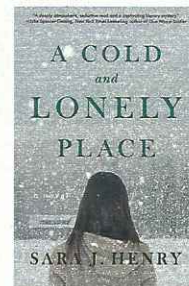
Unbroken

by Lauren Hillenbrand
“When life gets hectic, I find myself forgetting to give thanks,” admits Emily Throne FIRST copy editor. “I wanted to choose a book that would kick-start my gratitude—and this one was wonderful!” As a young man, Louis Zamperini left his delinquent childhood behind and honed his talent as a runner, which earned him a spot at the Berlin Olympics. However, his running career was stopped short after he enlisted in World War II as an airman. During the war, he suffered through a plane crash, floated the ocean on a raft for weeks, became

Mystery

A Cold and Lonely Place

by Sara J. Henry
“I picked up this book on a recommendation from one of our loyal readers who thought I might enjoy it, and boy did she hit the mark!” says Tara Hans, FIRST senior copy chief. Freelance writer Troy Chance is snapping photos of the Saranac Lake Winter Carnival when she notices something encased in the frozen lake. It’s an outline of a body—someone Troy knows. When the news goes viral, suspicion falls to one of Troy’s housemates. “Full of twists, this read kept me hooked from beginning to end,” says Tara. “I found myself rooting for Troy to clear her friend’s name and solve the mystery. It also reminded me how lucky I am to have my own set of close friends that would go to great depths for me.” (Broadway, 2013; Paperback \$15, Hardcover \$24, Kindle \$12, Nook \$12)



Thriller

Woman with a Secret by Sophie Hannah

“Sometimes a title alone is intriguing enough to draw me in,” says Shay Trotter, FIRST editorial assistant. “And when I saw this one, I just had to know the secret!” Nicki Clements is a wife and mom...and a woman with a dark past. When she gets entangled in the homicide investigation of a controversial newspaper columnist, Nicki becomes a suspect. She insists she isn’t guilty of murder, but as the investigation progresses, it becomes clear that she’s far from innocent. “I felt like I was investigating this case with the characters,” says Shay. “And the huge reveal at the end had my heart pumping!” (William Morrow, 2015; Kindle \$13, Nook \$13)

digital

