The Notable Books Council, a group of readers' advisory experts within the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA), a division of the American Library Association, has announced its selections for the 2014 Notable Books List.

Since 1944, the goal of the Notable Books Council has been to make available to the nation’s readers a list of about twenty-five very good, very readable, and at times very important fiction, nonfiction, and poetry books for the adult reader. A book may be selected for inclusion on the Notable Books List if it possesses exceptional literary merit, expands the horizons of human knowledge, makes a specialized body of knowledge accessible to the nonspecialist, has the potential to contribute significantly to the solution of a contemporary problem, or presents a unique concept.

**FICTION**

*Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. Knopf. (978-0-30727108-2). The nuances and challenges of race, emigration, and cultural identification are explored through the lives of two Nigerian lovers.

*Life After Life* by Kate Atkinson. Reagan Arthur. (978-0-31617648-4). What would happen if death were just a new beginning?


*Too Bright to Hear Too Loud to See* by Juliann Garey. Soho Press. (978-1-61695129-0). The fragmented and unsettling perspective of a man grappling with mental illness.


*The Dinner* by Herman Koch. Hogarth. (978-0-77043785-5). If they sat next to us in a restaurant, we would do well to simply study our forks.
Notable Books

**Fiction**


*Tale for the Time Being* by Ruth Ozeki. Viking. (978-0-67002663-0). Tokyo meets Sunnyvale and British Columbia through a purple gel pen, a tsunami, and a Hello Kitty lunchbox with a side of quantum physics.


**NONFICTION**

*Lawrence in Arabia: War, Deceit, Imperial Folly and the Making of the Modern Middle East* by Scott Anderson. Doubleday. (978-0-81121875-7). A biography of place viewed through some of its most enigmatic and iconic historical figures.


*On Paper: The Everything of Its Two-Thousand Year History* by Nicholas Basbanes. Knopf. (978-0-30726642-2). The most valuable, useful, pervasive invention after the wheel and before the computer.

*To the End of June: The Intimate Life of American Foster Care* by Cris Beam. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. (978-0-15101412-5). When every person and social system you’ve trusted has let you down, can there be happy endings for anyone involved?


*Five Days at Memorial: Life and Death in a Storm-Ravaged Hospital* by Sheri Fink. Crown. (978-0-30771896-9). After Hurricane Katrina, systematic failures lead to morally ambiguous decisions.


*Faraway Nearby* by Rebecca Solnit. Viking. (978-0-67002596-1). Apricots and Alzheimer’s come together in a meditation on how lives are created and sustained through story.

**POETRY**


*Hum* by Jamaal May. Alice James. (978-1-93858402-2). Detroit cityscapes resonate with the pulse of machinery and silence.