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Book ideas for adults

By **Jonne Ozick**
Special Writer

Sigh... So many good books, so little time. Why waste precious hours searching for the perfect book for a friend, sibling or co-worker?

Experience is the best guide in this particular quest, so we asked a few local bookstore managers to let us in on some of their favorites.

Jody Kohn, store manager of Book Beat, an offbeat nook in an Oak Park strip mall that offers one of the finest selections of art books in the area, and Janice Keramedjian, manager of Barnes & Noble bookstore in Birmingham, chose an eclectic bunch of books. They promise something for everyone in this stack.

The fiftieth anniversary edition of *The Little Prince* by Antoine De Saint-Exupery is beautifully bound and features 25 pages of new color illustrations. This classic appeals to adults and children and "was inspired by the author's belief that humankind needs to constantly reidentify its soul. Fifty years later, his words still ring true," Kohn says.

\$50. Harcourt Brace.

The Art Pack, a 3-D, pop-up picture book tour of art over the centuries, flew off the shelves when it made its debut last

year. Created by Christopher Frayling, Helen Frayling and Ron Van Der Meer, the book examines the history of an "with a focus on the 'eye' or how we see the beauty of art," Keramedjian says. She adds that the book is "whimsical, yet serious enough for the most discriminating person."

\$45 list price; \$40.50 at Barnes & Noble. Alfred Knopf.

The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho, just translated from its original Spanish, is a "lyrical, magical fable about following your dreams" that focuses on a young shepherd who learns about life and himself when he goes in search of a treasure. The book is "an enchanting tale about listening to our hearts, trusting our souls and discovering the true meaning of happiness," Kohn says. \$16 hardcover. Harper Collins.

The Yale Shakespeare: The Complete Works, edited by Wilbur Cross and Tucker Brooke is available only at Barnes & Noble bookstores. Yale University Press has compiled the Bard's complete works, including 37 plays, the poems and sonnets in one volume. Complete with a biography of Shakespeare, notes, history and informative text. "For the collector, please note that this is printed on acid-free paper for a guaranteed long shelf life."

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