

## Book Chains choices for 2023 – 2024

1. My Father's House by Joseph O'Connor; Irish; a gripping story of love, faith, sacrifice and courage in wartime Rome
  2. Tom Lake by Ann Patchett; award-winning American writer's newest book, "the lives our parents led before they were our parents"
  3. How the Penguins Saved Veronica by Hazel Prior, Brit; "...it's never too late to become the person you were meant to be. But it might require a trip to Antarctica. And penguins."
  4. Agatha Christie by Lucy Worsley; British historian pens a delightful biography of the astonishingly successful author who overcame obstacles of gender and class to become a pioneer
  - 5A. The All of It by Jeannette Haien; Irish novella published in 1986; "elegantly written, compact and often subtle"; "a quiet little stunner"
- AND
- 5B. Small Things Like These by Claire Keegan; Irish novella published in 2021 and set in 1985; "both precise and beautiful. A true gift of a book"; Booker Prize 2022 shortlist
  6. Once Upon a Wardrobe by Patti Callahan; set in Oxford in 1950; "Where did Narnia come from?" asks little George and Megs his sister determines to find out
  7. The Island of Missing Trees by Elif Shafak; British-Turkish author sets her story in war-torn Cyprus as two young people meet and fall in love, witnessed by the fig tree in the taverna...
  8. Cold Edge of Heaven by Whit Fraser; Can; Vice-regal consort of Governor General Mary Simon, the author knows the north well and sets his mystery in the Arctic in 1924
- 

1. Haven by Emma Donoghue; award-winning Irish-Canadian author's "patient, thoughtful novel" set in 7<sup>th</sup> century Ireland; what does survival mean on an isolated island with a fanatic?
2. The Marriage Portrait by Maggie O'Farrell; Florence in the 1550's; 15-year old Lucrezia is thrust into a political marriage. "A captivating portrait of a woman attempting to free herself from a golden cage."
3. Bloomsbury Girls by Natalie Jenner; Can author's new novel set in 1950 London, where a tradition-bound bookstore run by men is about to meet three determined women...
4. Agent Sonya; The Spy Next Door by Ben Macintyre; Brit biography; "the tale of a fully fleshed-out female spy" who spied for Russia from the US to China, Switzerland, and Britain
5. The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell by Robert Dugoni; award-winning American storyteller takes us into the world of a boy born with red pupils, ocular albinism
6. The Phone Booth at the Edge of the World by Laura Imai Messina; Italian-Japanese author's moving story of the "Wind Phone" after the 2011 tsunami, inspired by true events
7. Miss Benson's Beetle by Rachel Joyce; British bestselling author's tale of two women on a life-changing adventure who risk everything and break all the rules...
8. Bruno, Chief of Police by Martin Walker; first in a beguiling series of whodunits set in the Dordogne in France, first published in 2008