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***LIBRARY JOURNAL ANNOUNCES INAUGURAL LIST
TOP BEST TEN BOOKS OF 2010***

New York, NY, November 4, 2010—For the very first time, *Library Journal* announces its top ten best books list reflecting fiction and nonfiction titles that stood out as the very best in 2010. The list—compiled with the input of librarians and *LJ*'s stable of book reviewers—represents an assortment of books appropriate for a broad reading audience. Several of *LJ*'s Book Review editors chronicled their deliberations on Twitter under the hash tag #bestbooks10.

“We can guarantee that each of these books offers a tremendous reading experience. Librarians—and booksellers—should feel confident in recommending them to their readers, suggesting them to book groups, and promoting them through a variety of venues. These are the books Americans will enjoy reading—and discussing,” says Brian Kenney, Editorial Director, *Library Journal* and *School Library Journal*.

The following titles make up the inaugural top ten list:

American Terroir by Rowan Jacobsen (Bloomsbury)

By Nightfall by Michael Cunningham (Farrar, Straus & Giroux)

Freedom by Jonathan Franzen (Farrar, Straus & Giroux)

How to Live, Or, a Life of Montaigne in One Question and Twenty Attempts at an Answer by Sarah Bakewell (Other Press)

Room by Emma Donoghue (Little, Brown)

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot (Crown)

The Passage by Justin Cronin (Ballantine)

The Tiger by John Vaillant (Knopf)

The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration by Isabel Wilkerson (Random)

Walker Evans Decade by Decade (Hatje Cantz)

“My colleagues and I aimed to identify the very best books. But I’m pleased that our final list offers a mix of both the usual suspects and dark horse contenders. Our top ten serves the dual purpose of recognizing deservedly celebrated marquee names as well as showcasing rising talents who may have gone unnoticed because of the sheer volume of books published,” says Heather McCormack, *LJ*'s Book Review Editor.

The full list, accompanied by approximately 20 notable titles and bests in genre fiction, how-to, and other genres (e.g., poetry, graphic novels, and memoir), will be published in the Nov. 18, 2010, installment of *BookSmack!*, *LJ*'s twice-monthly e-newsletter, and in the December print issue.

About *Library Journal*

Founded in 1876, *Library Journal* is one of the oldest and most respected publications covering the library field. Over 100,000 library directors, administrators, and staff in public, academic, and special libraries read *LJ*. *Library Journal* reviews over 8,000 books, audiobooks, videos, databases, Web sites annually, and provides coverage of technology, management, policy, and other professional concerns.