

Bookworms and Their Diet
Tucson, Arizona Spring 2018

NON-FICTION

Egan, Timothy - *The Big Burn: Teddy Roosevelt and the Fire that Saved America*- Aug. 1910, dramatic story of nearly 10,000 men fighting the largest wildfire in U.S. history in drought stricken forests of WA, ID and MT; afterwards as President Teddy Roosevelt pioneered our U.S. Forest Service, conflicts between business interests and people wanting to preserve public lands.

The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl - Powerful book about the 1930s dust bowl, how we got it, and what was done about it.

Fagone, Jason - *The Woman Who Smashed Codes: A True Story of Love, Spies, and The Unlikely Heroine Who Outwitted American Enemies* - Elizebeth Friedman was a tireless and talented code breaker and code inventor for 30 years who brought down gangsters and Nazi spies.

Herndon, Booton - *Redemption at Hacksaw Ridge* - Private Desmond T. Doss, 77th Infantry Division medic, WWII, became the first conscientious objector to receive the Medal of Honor.

Larson, Erik - *The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair That Changed America* – Cunning serial killer used the 1893 Chicago World's Fair to lure victims to their death.

Markham, Beryl - *West with the Night* – Author's epic story of being raised in Kenya, Africa, 1920s, by her father and native tribe people; became an outstanding horse trainer; set records and broke barriers as a pilot; survived desperate crash landings—and chronicled everything. A contemporary of the author of *Out of Africa*. Beryl's book was the inspiration for *Circling the Sun* by Paula McLain.

Mazzeo, Tilar J. - *Irena's Children: The Extraordinary Story of the Woman Who Saved 2,500 Children from the Warsaw Ghetto* - Irena Sendler, a Polish Catholic social worker, took staggering risks to save Jewish children from death and deportation in Nazi-occupied Poland in WWII. She kept a secret list hidden of the true identities of each child so their families could later find them.

Vance, J.D. - *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis* – Author's true story of what a social, regional, and class decline feels like when you were born with it hung around your neck.

White, Neil – *In the Sanctuary of Outcasts* - Emotional true story of Neil White, while a convict in a federal prison shared with patients in the last leper colony in the continental United States, discovers the secret to happiness to lead a fulfilling life.

Wolfe, Tom - *The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test* – Story of novelist Ken Kesey and his band of Merry Pranksters, 1960s, as led a group of psychedelic sympathizers around the country in a painted bus presiding over LSD-induced “acid tests” along the way. A history book of the hippies.

FICTION

Berg, Elizabeth - *The Story of Arthur Truluv* - Three people who each lose the one they love most, band together and through heartache help one another rediscover how to start anew.

Fitch, Janet – *White Oleander* - Astrid, foster child in Los Angeles whose mother is in jail for murder, finds strength in her unshakable certainty of her own worth and her unfettered sense of the absurd.

Grisham, John – *Skippping Christmas* - Story of Luther and Nora Krank, with daughter away in the Peace Corps, decide to avoid their usual Christmas hassles and expenses and take a cruise instead. This shocks their neighbors, who are completely bound up in annual Christmas traditions.

Hannah, Kristin – *The Great Alone* – Alaska 1974, 13 yr. old Leni and her parents move to Alaskan wilderness to live off the land. All goes well until winter darkness and snow descend and they are in crisis, refusing to ask community for help. Highlights heroics of everyday people.

Jacobs, Kate – *Friday Night Knitting Club* – Series, 3 books - Once a week, an eclectic group of women come together at a NYC yarn shop to work on projects and share the stories of their lives.

Kingsolver, Barbara – *The Poisonwood Bible* - Nathan Price, a fierce, evangelical Baptist takes his wife and four daughters on a mission to the Belgian Congo in 1959. Their struggles impact their lives during the following years.

Flight Behavior – A young wife and mother running from her stifling life discovers a valley covered with Monarch butterflies. Her rural community believes God is in charge of weather and can't be explained by scientists who say it is climate change that caused the butterflies to come here.

Picoult, Jodi - *Change of Heart*- Spellbinding tale of a mother's tragic loss and a criminal's last chance at gaining salvation.

Small Great Things - Moral dilemma that will lead readers to question everything they know about privilege, power, and race. Ruth Jefferson a labor and delivery nurse faces these questions.

HISTORICAL FICTION

Brennert, Alan- *Moloka'i* - Late 1800s Rachel Kalama, a spirited seven-year-old Hawaiian girl, is sent to Kalaupapa, the quarantined leprosy settlement on the island of Moloka'i where she spends the rest of her long life among people who become her family.

Diamant, Anita – *The Red Tent* - Dinah, daughter of Jacob and Leah - tells the traditions and turmoil's of ancient womanhood and the sisterhood of the red tent--the practices of the time, and how women survived.

Doerr, Anthony - *All the Light We Cannot See* - A blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II.

Follett, Ken – *Century Trilogy* that follows 5 international families through the twentieth century -*Fall of Giants; Winter of the World; Edge of Eternity*

Gruen, Sara – *At the Water's Edge* - Madeline Hyde, her husband and his best friend, in WWII, live in a remote Scottish Highlands village where the locals have only contempt for the privileged interlopers. As Madeline gets to know the villagers, she realizes the values she holds dear prove unsustainable.

Kirkpatrick, Jane – Dreamcatcher Series- *A Gathering of Finches* – Simpson lumber family establishing the timber industry and Coos Bay, OR, experience the consequences of their choices. Other books in series: *A Sweetness to the Soul; Love to Water My Soul; Mystic Sweet Communion*. Author's books have underlying religious theme.

Kline, Christina Baker - *Orphan Train* - Gripping story of friendship and second chances as Molly, teenage foster child helps Vivian, age 90, who was an orphan train child, sort through her possessions and memories. They learn they aren't as different as they seem to be.

McIlvain, Myra Hargrave – *Stein House* – Fictional German immigrants, widow Helga Heinrich and her 4 children, 1853, sail into coastal town Indianola, TX. Town's and family's successes, hardships and heartbreak as live through Civil War, Reconstruction and storms with love from community.

McLain, Paula – *Circling the Sun*- Beryl Markham, raised in 1920s in Kenya by her father and native tribe people, was strong willed and competent which allowed her to do many brave things, especially rare for women at that time as she pursued being a great horse trainer and a record setting aviator.

The Paris Wife- Captures the love affair between Ernest Hemingway and his wife Hadley, their ambitions and betrayal.

O'Brian, Patrick - *Master and Commander* - (Book 1 of 21 Aubrey/Maturin Novels) – Captain Jack Aubrey, Royal Navy and Stephen Maturin, ship's surgeon and intelligence agent, become good friends and continue to experience at sea many battles and adventures in continuing books.

Towles, Amor - *A Gentleman in Moscow* - Count Alexander Rostov, an unrepentant aristocrat, is sentenced to spend the rest of his life in an attic room of a luxury hotel across the street from the Kremlin while decades of tumultuous Russian history unfold outside.

Wingate, Lisa – *Before We Were Yours* - Story of the Foss children ('30s) and Avery Stafford (present), a real-life scandal from the '30s-1950. Georgia Tann, who ran the Memphis, TN, Children's Home Society, stole poor children from their families and single mothers and sold them to people who could afford them.

MYSTERY

George, Elizabeth – *A Banquet of Consequences* - Scotland Yard Detective Thomas Lynley and Detective Sergeant Barbara Havers; story alternates between London and Dorset murders.

Grafton, Sue – 25 Alphabet mysteries (A-Y) featuring woman Detective Kinsey Millhone, a smart, resourceful, tough yet sensitive Californian P.I. Grafton passed away Dec. 2017. Her family said "Out of respect for her, the alphabet now ends at Y."

Morton, Kate – *The Lake House* –1930s, Cornwall, England Edevane lake estate and London, 2003. Sadie Sparrow, young detective in London police force, investigates the Edevanes eleven-month-old, child, Theo, vanishing without a trace in 1930, and the torn apart family abandoned the home. Alice Edevane, Theo's then 16 yr old sister, now famous novelist, reveals family secrets to Sadie.

Shumock, Joe – *Letter to Die For* – Letter Series Book 1 of 4 – Young woman threatened with death as courageously tries to solve 25 year old hit and run accident. 2) *The Lost Letter*; 3) *Letter From The Dark*; 4) *Sacrifice of the Lambs*

Ware, Ruth – *The Woman in Cabin 10* - Lo Blacklock, a journalist for a travel magazine, on a luxury cruise, describes a woman being thrown overboard but no one believes her because all passengers are accounted for.

FAVORITE AUTHORS

Ivan Doig, a Montanan, known as a lively, often funny chronicler of the Western past; author of sixteen fiction and non-fiction books, including *The Bartender's Tale*; *The Whistling Season*; classic memoir *This House of Sky*; and *The Last Bus to Wisdom* - (last book before his death, 2015).

Oates, Joyce Carol – 40 American novels-fiction, non-fiction, psychological thrillers; short stories.

FICTION

Archer, Jeffrey- Multiple award winning books, including *The Clifton Chronicles* - series, 7 books. Clifton's saga begins 1920 and goes across generations from Europe to America. Archer was a member of British Parliament before became an author.

O'Connor, Flannery - Her writing is best-known for its explorations of religious themes, southern racial issues, and for combining the comic with the tragic. Novels, short stories, essays.

Trigiani, Adriana – Big Stone Gap novels; other of her novels.

HISTORICAL FICTION

Gregory, Philippa – The Plantagenet and Tudor novels and others during English Tudor dynasty rule; *The Other Boleyn Girl* and other novels.

Jakes, John – best known for American Hist.Fic- *The Kent Family Chronicles*; *North, South Trilogy*; *Crown Family Saga*; also many *science fiction and fantasy novels*.

HISTORICAL FICTION – ROMANCE

Miller, Linda Lael – Romance historical and contemporary novels, many set in American West.

MYSTERY

Barr, Nevada – Anna Pigeon, National Park Service Ranger deals with various crimes in U.S. National Parks.

Box, C.J. – Joe Pickett, Wyoming game warden. 18 books – series

Coben, Harlan – Myron Bolitar, Sports agent. 11 books – series

Coel, Margaret – Wind River Mystery series - 20 books. Arapaho attorney, Vicky Holden and Father John O'Malley on Wind River Reservation

Flynn, Vince – Mitch Rapp, CIA – Series, 15 books.

Hillerman, Tony – Leaphorn and Chee series, 20 books. Navajo Tribal Police Lieutenant Joe Leaphorn and Sergeant Jim Chee

Jance, J.A. – Joanna Brady series; J.P. Beaumont series; Ali Reynolds series

Johnson, Craig – Wyoming Sheriff Walt Longmire, 12 novels; modern Western

Penny, Louise - Inspector Armand Gamache in Quebec. Series-read in order

Perry, Anne – Victorian England, William Monk series & Charlotte and Thomas Pitt series

Peters, Elizabeth - Amelia Peabody, archaeologist adventures in Egypt, series

Rule, Ann *True Crime Stories* in 17 books. Author a former Seattle police officer who knows the crime scene firsthand; a powerful advocate for victims of violent crime.

Smith, Alexander McCall - No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency – Series, 19 books; In Botswana, owner of the detective agency is Precious Ramotswe and her loyal associate, Grace Makutsi. 2nd series - 12 books – Isabel Dalhousie – Curious philosopher and detective in Edinburgh, Scotland

