Bookworms and Their Diet Tallahassee, FL Spring, 2019

FICTION

Berry, Steve: The Patriot Threat. 10th in the series. What if the 16th Amendment to the Constitution, yep, the one that enacted the dreaded income tax, were somehow determined to be ineffectually ratified? Worse yet, what if the North Koreans were hot on the trail of documents that could prove this, hoping to destabilize the United States economy, and the world economy as well? Colton Malone will find out!

Binchy, Maeve: Well known author who has written generational stories involving characters from Ireland and England.

Christie, Agatha and Hannah, Sophie: Closed Casket, The Monogram Murders, Mystery of Three Quarters. Updated version of Hercule Poirot murder mysteries.

Cleeton, Chanel: *Next Year in Havana.* A beautiful novel that's full of forbidden passions, family secrets and a lot of courage and sacrifice.

Conklin, Tara: The Last Romantics. A sweeping yet intimate epic about one American family that pierces the heart and lingers in the mind, it is also a beautiful meditation on the power of stories.

Deveraux, Jude: A Justified Murder. Second book in the series. Despite their lack of investigative experience, Sara Medlar; her niece, Kate; and Jack Wyatt found themselves at the center of the mystery, working together to reveal the truth behind a decades-old secret in the sleepy town.

Evanovich, Janet: One For the Money. Stephanie Plum number series, we're on #25 at present. Stephanie Plum is a fun character and this is a pretty good introductory book with funny shenanigans as she tries to figure out how to be a bounty hunter. She does have a hamster, a deranged grandmother, two caring parents and several pairs of biking shorts and sports bras.

Grisham, John: *The Reckoning.* Incredible journey, from the Jim Crow South to the jungles of the Philippines during World War II; from an insane asylum filled with secrets to the Clanton courtroom where the main character's defense attorney tries desperately to save him.

Hannah, Kristin: The Nightingale. The author captures the epic panorama of World War II and illuminates an intimate part of history seldom seen: the women's war.

Hickam, Homer: Carrying Albert Home: The Somewhat True Story of a Woman, a Husband, and her Alligator. A funny, sweet, and sometimes tragic tale of a young couple and a special alligator on a crazy 1,000-mile adventure.

Honeyman, Gail: *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine.* A smart, warm, and uplifting story of an out-of-the-ordinary heroine whose deadpan weirdness and unconscious wit make for an irresistible journey as she realizes. . . The only way to survive is to open your heart.

Jones, Tayari: An American Marriage. A masterpiece of storytelling, an intimate look deep into the souls of people who must reckon with the past while moving forward—with hope and pain—into the future.

Kadish, Rachael: The Weight of Ink. About women separated by centuries—and the choices and sacrifices they must make in order to reconcile the life of the heart and mind.

Kantor, MacKinley: *If the South Had Won the War.* shows us how the South could have won the Civil War, how two small shifts in history (as we know it) in the summer of 1863 could have turned the tide for the Confederacy. What would have happened: to the Union, to Abraham Lincoln, to the people of the North and South, to the world? **An alternative theory to history.**

Kingsolver, Barbara: *Unsheltered.* The story of two families, in two centuries, who live at the corner of Sixth and Plum in Vineland, New Jersey, navigating what seems to be the end of the world as they know it.

Michaelides, Alex: The Silent Patient. A shocking psychological thriller of a woman's act of violence against her husband—and of the therapist obsessed with uncovering her motive.

Owens, Delia: Where the Crawdads Sing. An exquisite ode to the natural world, a heartbreaking coming-of-age story, and a surprising tale of possible murder.

Penney, Louise: *Still Life*: (Book 1 of 14 in Chief Inspector Armand Gamache series) Chief and his team are called to the scene of a woman's suspicious death south of Montreal in rural Three Pines.

Proulx, Annie: The Shipping News. The author creates a simple and compelling tale of the main character's psychological and spiritual growth. Along the way, we get to look in on the maritime beauty of what is probably a disappearing way of life.

Towles, Amor: A Gentleman in Moscow. a transporting novel about a man who is ordered to spend the rest of his life inside a luxury hotel. relates the count's endeavor to gain a deeper understanding of what it means to be a man of purpose.

Wiggs, Susan: The Chicago Fire Trilogy. Three romantic tales with three incredible women. The Hostage, The Mistress, The Firebrand. You can read all three tales in the one book or get them individually.

SCIENCE FICTION

Charles, Ann: Better Off Dead in Deadwood. 4th book in the series. One dead body. One century-old haunted opera house. One zombie musical. One ticked-off detective. Will Violet "Spooky" Parker keep her tail out of trouble or will she end up as one of Deadwood's walking dead?

Gaiman, Neil: The Graveyard Book. Can a boy raised by ghosts face the wonders and terrors of the worlds of both the living and the dead? Winner of the Newbery Medal, the Carnegie Medal, the Hugo Award for best novel, the Locus Award for Young Adult novel.

Henderson, Zenna: The People - No Different Flesh. Sweet, sad, wonderful stories about The People: aliens who look human but have Gifts and only want to fit in. Theme is as relevant today as it was when originally written. **Science-Fiction**

McCaffrey, Ann: The Dragonriders of Pern. Dragonflight, Dragonquest, The White Dragon. A Trilogy. Those who know these extraordinary tales will be able to re-visit with Lessa, F'lar, Ruth, Lord Jaxon, and all the others. And for those just discovering this magical place, there are incomparable tales of danger, deceit, and daring, just waiting to be explored.

NON-FICTION

Ackerman, Diane: The Zookeepers Wife: A War Story. A true story in which the keepers of the Warsaw Zoo saved hundreds of people from Nazi hands. Examines the disturbing obsessions at the core of Nazism. **Green, David:** Midnight in Siberia. A Train Journey Into the Heart of Siberia. It's a lively travel narrative filled with humor, adventure, and insight. It opens a window onto that country's complicated relationship with democracy and offers a rare look into the soul of twenty-first-century Russia.

Larson, Erik: *The Devil in the White City:* Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair That Changed America. Brings Chicago, Circa 1893 to vivid life and intertwines the true tale of two men - the brilliant architect behind the legendary 1893 World's Fair and the serial killer who used the fair to lure his victims to their death.

Norman, Elizabeth and Michael: Tears in the Darkness: The Story of the Bataan Death March and It's Aftermath. A new look at World War II that exposes the myths of war and shows the extent of suffering and loss on both sides.

Stanton, Doug: The Odyssey of Echo Company: The 1968 Tet Offensive and Epic Battle to Survive the Vietnam War. Powerful account of an American army platoon fighting for survival during the Vietnam War in "an important book....not just a battle story—it's also about the home front".

SPIRITUAL

Gawande, Dr. Atul: Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End. Addresses end-of-life care, and how we're getting it wrong, both within the medical establishment and in our families, and how the ultimate goal is not a good death but a good life-all the way to the very end.

Lama, Dalai and Tutu, Archbishop Desmond: *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World.*"The world needs joy and compassion more than ever before – and who better than Archbishop Tutu and the Dalai Lama to show us how.

HISTORICAL FICTION

Dray, Stephanie: *My Dear Hamilton.* When a duel destroys Eliza's hard-won peace, the grieving widow fights her husband's enemies to preserve Alexander's legacy. But long-buried secrets threaten everything Eliza believes about her marriage and her *own* legacy.