

## Bookworms and Their Diet Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin Fall 2021

### NON-FICTION

**Grazer, Brian and Fishman, Charles** - *A Curious Mind: The Secret to a Bigger Life* – Academy Award winning movie producer, Brian Grazer, offers a captivating blueprint of how the simple act of asking questions can change your life.

**Montgomery, Ben** - *Grandma Gatewood's Walk: The Inspiring Story of the Woman Who Saved the Appalachian Trail* – Emma Gatewood, 65 years old, first woman to hike 800 miles alone on part of the Appalachian Trail. Story includes her trail adventures and her life in Southeast Ohio.

**Maroscher, Gerhard** - *Why Can't Somebody Just Die Around Here?* - Romanian family's miraculous survival of WWII, becoming refugees, fleeing communism, starving after the war, and coming to the USA to live the American Dream.

**Talty, Stephan**- *Empire of Blue Water* - Re-creates the life and times of Pirate Captain Henry Morgan and the real pirates of the Caribbean in the 1600s.

### FICTION

**Adams, Sara Nisha** – *The Reading List* – A chance encounter with a list of library books helps forge an unlikely friendship between two very different people in a London suburb.

**Backman, Fredrik** – *A Man Called Ove* - Grumpy old man, Ove, dislikes people who breaks rules; his life is changed by new chatty couple and 2 kids next door and others that enter his life.

**\*\*Beckman, George** – *Members of the Cast* – 1959, because Margo's archeologist parents are gone again, she lives in California with her understanding great-uncle. The high school junior likes her new friends and activities. After graduation she is torn between obeying her parents, or following her heart and going to college. **George and wife, Ruth, are California GMC motor home owners, members of GMCMI and Western States. Wholesome book, has heart, a great read!**

**Bennett, Brit** – *The Vanishing Half* – 1960s in Louisiana, light skinned black Identical twin sisters, inseparable as children, who ultimately choose to live in two very different worlds, one black and one white. Influence of strong bonds of sisterhood.

**Davidson, Ash** – *Damnation Spring* - 1977 Pacific NW, logging husband buys 300 acres of redwoods w/o telling wife; she claims to logging company greedy, unethical owner that herbicides he sprays to help logging industry are hurting babies thus causing conflict with her husband and in the community.

**Hyde, Catherine Ryan** – *Allie and Bea* – Bea, in her 60s, beaten down by life, loses all her money to a scammer and is forced to live in her van with her cat. She picks up 15 years old, Allie, running away from a foster home. Traveling together the unlikely couple form a family of their own.

**L'Amour, - Louis** - American novelist - primarily *Western novels*, also wrote historical fiction, science fiction, non-fiction, poetry and short-story collections; Many made into movies.

**McConaghy, Charlotte** – *Once There Were Wolves* - Inti Flynn arrives in Scotland with her twin sister, Aggie, to lead a team of biologists tasked with reintroducing fourteen gray wolves into the remote Highlands. As the wolves thrive, a farmer is found dead and fearing the wolves will be blamed, Inti makes a reckless decision to save them.

**Moranville, Sharelle Byars** – *Surprise Lily* - Challenges a multigenerational family face when secrets come to light and how 10 year old Rose struggles to find her own way through the family turmoil.

**Owens, Delia** – *Where the Crawdads Sing* – Kaya Clark, after surviving for years alone in a marsh, experiences love then is accused of murder.

**See, Lisa**- *Shanghai Girls* – (Book 1 of 2) – 1937, 21 years old Pearl Chin and younger sister, May, are sold by their father to California Chinese men as brides; struggles to reach CA as Japan takes over China; brave, inseparable sisters in CA Chinatown experience new customs, fears, cultural clashes, racism, tragedy and hope. (Book 2) – *Dreams of Joy*- Story continues in 1957 as Pearl's strong-willed 19 year-old daughter, Joy, runs away to Shanghai heedless of the dangers in the Communist regime. Pearl, determined to save her daughter, travels dangerously in China following Joy; one of the most tragic episodes in China's history threatens their very lives.

**Shusterman, Neal and Shusterman, Jarrod** – *Dry*- Realistic story of California drought that brings a family together, blows them apart as struggle to survive. (For Children, Teens, even Adults)

**Sparks, Nicholas** – *The Longest Ride* – Two couples separated by years and experience, yet their lives will converge reminding us most difficult decisions can yield extraordinary journeys to the farthest reaches of the heart.

**Steel, Danielle** – *Amazing Grace* - In an earthquake's aftermath, the lives of four strangers converge and each finds a new purpose. As a year passes each discovers unexpected gifts in a tragedy's wake...and the amazing grace of new beginnings.

**Teckman, Jon** – *Ordinary Joe* – Humorous story about middle-aged accountant, Joe's life behind the scenes in the film business and how he survives when his greatest fantasy comes true and threatens to wreck his perfectly ordinary life.

### **HISTORICAL FICTION**

**Akinson, Kate** - *Life after Life* – (Book 1 of 2: Todd Family) - Author's interesting technique of having main character, Ursula Todd, dying in one scene and being alive in another throughout her life spanning WW1 and WW2. As if she's trying to get it right this time.

**Boyd, Natasha** – *The Indigo Girl* – 1739-1744, 16 years old, Eliza Lucas Pinckney, growing indigo to make dye to make a profit for her family's 3 SC plantations after her father left, experienced sacrifice, dangerous and forbidden friendships, betrayal and political and financial threats; a story of a remarkable young woman whose actions were before their time.

**Brodie, Emma** – *Songs in Ursa Major* - Fictionalized account of early '70s relationship between rock stars Joni Mitchell and James Taylor; first loves, struggles to be heard, heartbreak of addiction, and unsavory business practices in the music industry

**Giles, Paulette** - *News of the World* - Retired Civil War Captain Kidd travels to Texas towns reading newspapers to paying audiences. He agrees to deliver, through treacherous land, unhappy 10 year old orphan, Johanna, to her relatives after she was captured, raised and loved by Kiowas for 4 years, the only family she knows. (Movie with Tom Hanks)

**Hannah, Kristen** – *The Four Winds* - indelible portrait of America and the American dream, as seen through the eyes of one indomitable woman whose courage and sacrifice during the Great Depression will come to define a generation.

**Hannah, Kristen** – *The Great Alone* – 13 years old Leni, her mother, father with PTSD, move to remote area of AK. With 18 hours winter darkness, cabin covered in deep snow, dad mentally deteriorating, Leni and mother realize they are alone as struggle for survival.

**Jenoff, Pam** – *The Lost Girls of Paris* – Remarkable story of friendship and courage centered around 3 women and a ring of female secret agents during WWII.

**Kidd, Sue Monk** – *The Book of Longings* – Ana, a young woman in a wealthy family, 1<sup>st</sup> century, Galilee, has a brilliant mind, daring spirit, ambition and is rebellious in a culture devised to silence her. *Author with meticulous research and reverential approach is courageous in imagining Jesus as a married man to Ana. (Religious Historical fiction)*

**Morris, Heather** – *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* – (Book 1 of 3)- 1942, Lale Sokolov's occupation, as a prisoner in Auschwitz, is tattooing permanent numbers on frightened prisoners. Meets young girl, Gita, they fall in love and never give up hope of a future together outside the brutal death camp. Lale's work gives him privileges and he often risks his life to help fellow prisoners survive

Book 2 - *Cilka's Journey* – Beautiful Cilka, 16 years old in Auschwitz, is kept separate from other prisoners by a commandant. After the war she charged as a collaborator for sleeping with the enemy and sent to a Siberian prison camp where she discovers a strength she never knew she had.

Book 3- *Three Sisters* – Three Slovakian sisters, who survived Auschwitz and now live in Israel, must face the ghosts of their pasts, and some secrets they kept from each other.

**Moyes, JoJo** – *Giver of Stars* – Story of five extraordinary women, Pack Horse Librarians during the Great Depression, who courageously wove their way through steep Kentucky Mountains delivering books to people in remote areas; the dedicated librarians were a lifeline in dispensing literacy, hope, and compassionate human connection.

**Richardson, Kim Michele** – *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* - inspired by the true, historical Kentucky blue-skinned people, born with rare genetic condition. Fictionalized Cussy Mary, in spite of being blue, is "Book Woman" — one of the dedicated, brave Packhorse Librarians who delivered books to remote families in Appalachian Mountains during the Great Depression.

**Whitehead, Colson** – *Harlem Shuffle* – Harlem, 1960s, Ray Carney, successful used furniture seller, is caught between his family's penchant for shady deals and his desire to be clean but with his ne'er-do-well cousin's encouragement is soon in underworld dangerous situations.

**Wingate, Lisa** - *The Book of Lost Friends* - three young women searching for family amid the destruction of the post-Civil War South, and of a modern-day teacher who learns their story and its vital connection to her students' lives.

### **TIME TRAVEL FICTION**

**Haig, Matt** – *The Midnight Library* – Nora's life is burdened by regrets when she stumbles on a library with books that enable her to test out the different lives she could have led; reflects on life decisions and meaning of life.

**Schwab, V. E.** – *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue* - France, 1714: in a moment of desperation, a young woman makes a Faustian bargain to live forever—and is cursed to be forgotten by everyone she meets. Everything changes when, after nearly 300 years, she stumbles across a young man in a hidden bookstore and he remembers her name.

### **MYSTERY**

**Foley, Lucy** – *The Guest List* – At a high profile wedding on a small remote island, resentments and petty jealousies begin to mingle with the reminiscences and well wishes during the reception - then someone turns up dead.

**Hawkins, Paula** – *A Slow Fire Burning* - When a young man is found gruesomely murdered in a London houseboat, it triggers questions about three women who knew him and are simmering with resentment to right the wrongs done to them.