



November 2018 Good Reads Book Club Reading Suggestions

For this month we read *American Wife* by Curtis Sittenfeld, which was (very) loosely based on the life of First Lady Laura Bush. Several of us liked it, but several of us did not, and the reasons for not liking it varied from feeling like it was a bit trashy to thinking it was overly long and included many numbing details that maybe didn't need to be there. I myself really enjoyed it on my first reading several years ago, but when I tried to re-read it for book club, I definitely found myself thinking "OMG, will this EVER END?!?!" It is always interesting to see how different peoples' opinion about a book can be. I'm just glad you don't hold it against me when you dislike a book I choose. (unless it's *The Sparrow*, which I will never live down.....)

Our next meeting is Wednesday December 5th and we'll be reading *Killing Trail* by Margaret Mizushima. The good news is that, if you like this book, it is the first in a series. (There is no bad news, because if you don't like the book what are you going to do? That's right, NOT FINISH IT and come to book club anyway. Thank you.)

Now for the good part -- what we've all been reading.

Marie read:

Njals Saga (translated from Icelandic). This book is from the late 13th century and the author is not known. The book features a wise statesman named (wait for it) Njals. It's an interesting book in part because of how many details it describes about the way people lived back then. An interesting read.

A book of short stories by Franz Kafka. There was probably some literary symbolism in the stories that she missed, but she enjoyed reading the stories.

All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr. Liked it - it was very good, and very sad.

Insidious Intent by Val McDermid. Not really Marie's cup of teal. The detectives had a lot of psychological baggage.

The Hundred Year Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared by Jonas Jonasson. An elderly man who is in a nursing home decides to escape and go have some adventures when he turns 100. Chapters from the present are interspersed with chapters describing earlier times in his life. A fun read (translated from the Swedish).

Margaret read:

The Air You Breathe by Frances Peebles. A very good story about the lives of two girls - one rich and one poor. Margaret loved it. (Angie previously read it and said she also liked it a lot.) Enjoyable.

JoAnn read:

A Noise Downstairs by Linwood Barclay. This was a fun read and JoAnn enjoyed it. She considers it to be "an entertaining thriller." Better than JoAnn expected!



Holy Ghost by John Sandford. Another entertaining thriller featuring perennial favorite Virgil Flowers. It turned out to be a great story.

Red War by Vince Flynn. Featuring American Mitch Rapp and his Russian counterpart, assassin Gresha Agarov, who's tried to kill him several times in the past. Now they have to work together. A great read.

Marianne read:

My Brilliant Friend by Elena Ferrante. It's about to become an HBO series. Marianne said she must be "off" because she didn't care for the book even though everyone she knows has completely raved around it. Angie reassured her and said she didn't like it either (even though she forced herself to read all four volumes in the saga). They both tried to get someone else to read the book, but no one really wanted to take it. Finally Marie said she'd try it. Stay tuned.

The Masterpiece by Fiona Davis. This historical fiction featured Grand Central Station. Marianne didn't enjoy it as much as she liked the earlier books by Davis (*The Dollhouse* and *The Address*).

The State We're In by Adele Parks. This is a book by a British author that Marianne's friend found on a book swap shelf in a hotel in Europe. (It's not available in the U.S.) It's an interesting story featuring two people - one British and one American - who are each dealing with crises and meet up accidentally on an airplane. From the [Amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk) description: "What are the odds that the stranger sitting next to you on a plane is destined to change your life? Especially when they appear to be your opposite in every way..."

The Witness by Nora Roberts. This was a Montville book club read and Marianne enjoyed it. Bonus: there's a dog in it.

Pat read:

The Smiling Man by Joseph Knox. Unsurprisingly, it features a serial killer. The policeman trying to solve the crime has a lot of baggage. It was ok, not great.

Angie read:

Tangerine by Christine Mangan. "Boy, I'm glad it's over." Enjoyed the setting (Morocco) but didn't like the characters, and it was a dark read.

No Good Asking by Fran Kimmel. A first novel. A sweet book, not schmaltzy, that takes place around Christmastime.

Broken Field by Jeff Hill. From Amazon: "Told from the perspective of a high school girl and a football coach, *Broken Field* reveals the tensions that tear at the fabric of a small town when a high school hazing incident escalates and threatens a championship season." This was a well-written book with great characters, very interesting and relevant. Angie liked it a lot and would recommend it.



Charity read:

Waiting for Eden by Elliott Ackermann. The author is a war veteran. This story is about a man who was injured by an IED in a war. His friend, who died in the same incident, is narrating the book and feels like he's better off than the guy who lived.

Mary read:

Hey, Kiddo by Jarrett J. Krosoczka. This is a memoir of growing up, in graphic novel format. The author is a popular author of graphic novels for kids. I enjoyed it quite a lot.

The Lake of Dead Languages by Carol Goodman. A woman returns to teach Latin at the boarding school where, twenty years ago, her roommates died mysteriously. Spoiler alert: weird things start happening and all is not as it seems. I sort of liked it, except by the end of it I'd figured out who the villain was and I felt like the narrator should have seen it too.

Transcription by Kate Atkinson. During World War II a woman is hired to transcribe conversations between a British spy and the German sympathizers he cultivates for information. Many, many people are big fans of Kate Atkinson. This book was a reminder to me that I am not one of them.

The Lost Husband by Katherine Center. This is a book written a few years ago by the author of *How to Walk Away*, which came out in 2018 and which a few of us read. (It had a red cover, was about a woman who survived a plane crash.) I liked it - interesting characters, and just a good read.

Not of This Fold by Mette Ivie Harrison. This is the fourth mystery featuring amateur sleuth Linda Wallheim, whose husband is a Bishop in the Mormon Church. I enjoyed it.

The Spaceship Next Door by Gene Doucette. Three years ago a small spaceship about the size of a boulder landed in an empty field in a small Massachusetts town. And it hasn't done anything since then... until now. Sixteen-year-old Annie Collins, who lives in the town and is friends with all the kooks who have been keeping tabs on the spaceship, gets involved with some weird stuff as things start to go awry. I enjoyed the book very much (and then I read the sequel and enjoyed it too).



October 2018 Good Reads Book Club Reading Suggestions

Here are my notes from our October meeting. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, November 7th and the book is *American Wife* by Curtis Sittenfeld. See you then! Oh, and for all you Lars Kepler fans, his new book featuring Det. Joona Linna will be coming in February 2019 and is called *Stalker*.

Here are the notes from our Wednesday, October 3rd, 2018 meeting.

The book we read for this month was *Bad Move* by Linwood Barclay. It's about a suburban dad whose nose is in everybody's business. The more he tries to control the safety of his family, the deeper into trouble he gets. Linwood Barclay is currently a pretty popular thriller writer, and this was his first foray into mysteries/thrillers. Most of us felt that the book was only OK, although there were some funny parts. Some felt the middle dragged on and on. There was too much going on and too many plot twists. The one thing we did all agree upon was that the main character was annoying. ("I mean, REALLY," said one person.)

Margaret read:

Margaret is halfway through *The Air We Breathe*, a book about two girls in India. She'll report on it next month. She started reading *American Wife* by Curtis Sittenfeld (this is our November book) and is already halfway through, loving the book.

She also read *The Coincidence of Coconut Cake* by Amy Reichert, which was a delightful light read about a chef in Milwaukee who is struggling to make a go of it with her restaurant and discovers her fiance is cheating. In the book, she then meets and falls for a restaurant reviewer. It was a book about with a strong message about giving people a second chance, and Margaret highly recommends it.

JoAnn read:

Six Years by Harlan Coben. One of his older thrillers. It was ok.

The Other Woman by Daniel Silva. A very good story in the Gabriel Allon series. Espionage, a mole, love, betrayal...

Falling Angels by Tracy Chevalier. Phenomenal. Thanks to Marianne for recommending this very good novel about two families the day after Queen Victoria's death. Parallels to today's society. A great read, highly recommended.

The First Love by Beverly Lewis. An Amish romance - a lovely, peaceful love story.

Leverage in Death by J. D. Robb. The latest in the Eve Dallas series (number 47!!). A very good story.

Paradox by Catherine Coulter. The latest FBI thriller featuring Sherlock & Savich. Two intertwined stories. The perfect book - highly recommended!

Tangerine by Christine Mangam. In Tangiers, a woman is obsessed with her friend. Bad things happen. It's very Gothic.



Marie read:

Jacksonland by Steve Inskeep. A nonfiction account of American president Andrew Jackson and a great American land grab. An interesting perspective on history that is not whitewashed like textbooks often are.

Gold of Our Father by Kwai Cordy. This mystery that involves gold mining is part of a detective series set in Ghana, which is interesting because you learn a lot about the culture and how the people live.

Don't Eat Me by Colin Cotterill. One of a series of mysteries featuring Dr. Siri Paiboun, the retired coroner for Laos. The series is set in Laos in the 1980s. It features quirky characters and a fun story.

The Punishment She Deserves by Elizabeth George. An Inspector Lynley mystery.

Rachel read:

The Fallen by David Baldacci. The latest in the Amos Decker series. It was just "ok." Nothing special.

As the Crow Flies by Damien Boyd. A rock climber is killed in a fall, but was it really an accident? A really good book with a nice twist and a good ending.

The Guilty by David Baldacci. Part of the Will Robie series. Liked this one.

A Killer's Mind by Mike Omer. From Amazon: "Three Chicago women have been found strangled, embalmed, and posed as if still alive. Doubting the findings of the local PD's profiler, The FBI calls on forensic psychologist Zoe Bentley to investigate."

Then She Ran by Charlie Gallagher. An enjoyable read featuring parallel story lines.

Vanishing Girls by Lisa Reagan

Everything We Keep; Everything We Left Behind and Everything We Give. This trilogy by Lonsdale Curry features a woman whose fiance disappears and is presumed dead. He turns up in the 2nd book but with amnesia. The third book (which was not as good as the first two) ties things together, but it kind of fell flat.

Here's to Us by Elin Hilderbrand. A celebrated chef dies and leaves his property to all three of his ex-wives, who were all so different yet were loved by the same man.

Everything I Never Told You by Celeste Ng. A good read, starting from the first sentence: "Lydia is dead."

Marianne read:

How to Walk Away by Katherine Center. A woman coping with a spinal cord injury. Pat also read this one, and both Marianne and Pat enjoyed it and thought it was a good read.

Snow Falling on Cedars by David Guterson. Just after World War II, racial tensions still exist between Japanese Americans and whites. A Japanese man is accused of murder on a small island in the Pacific Northwest. It's quite a good story, but took a long time to read.



Sheila read:

The Only Woman in the Room by Marie Benedict (book is coming in Jan 2019, this was an advanced reader's copy). Based on the life of Hedy Lamarr. Sheila liked the book and thought it was interesting and well-written. Would definitely recommend it.

17th Suspect by James Patterson. Your typical James Patterson novel, this one featuring Sergeant Lindsey Boxer. The characters are likeable, but it was sketchily written.

The Word Is Murder by Anthony Horowitz. In this story, a woman is found strangled soon after she finishes planning her own funeral. Coincidence? Meanwhile the detective assigned to the case is looking for someone to help write his memoirs and he chooses a guy named Anthony Horowitz to be his ghost writer. The two men have a Sherlock Holmes/Watson type relationship going on. This guy is an inventive writer and it's really enjoyable to read his books because he usually finds a way to include an extra twist.

White Houses by Amy Bloom. A fictionalized account of Eleanor Roosevelt's love affair with Lorena Hitchcock. It was strange to read about the sexual relationships of an iconic figure such as Eleanor Roosevelt, and it certainly put a different slant on things. It was a bit of an unsettling read.

Pat read:

The Girl in the Woods by Patricia McDonald. A very good mystery. From Amazon: "A deathbed confession has chilling consequences in this gripping novel of psychological suspense."

How to Walk Away by Katherine Center. Liked this book - it was very good.

Sometimes I Lie by Alice Feeney. A really weird book with an extremely unreliable narrator. At the end, Pat had no idea what had actually happened.

Angie read:

No Turning Back by Tracy Bachman. In an English coastal town, a woman walking along the beach causes someone's death when she tries to protect her child. It was a pretty quick read, a good thriller. (JoAnn also read it a few months ago and enjoyed it.)

The Dead House by Billy O'Callaghan. In a small cottage on the Irish coast, a group of friends gather for the weekend. Someone pulls out a Ouija board. They end up inviting a spirit into the house and "things go downhill from there," according to Angie.

First Family by Daniel Palmer (son of Michael Palmer). A combination political/medical thriller. A decent read, enjoyable.

Irene read:

Love and Ruin by Paula McLain. This book features Martha Gellhorn, one of Ernest Hemingway's wives and a well-known journalist in her own right. Not as good as others by this author.

Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate. A very good, interesting story (but also sad).

The Death of Mrs. Westaway by Ruth Ware. A Gothic novel surrounding a family inheritance... and murder, of course.

The Queen's Accomplice by Susan McNeal. A WW2 mystery featuring British secretary-turned-spy Maggie Hope. Lots of plot points, but nothing really came together and it wasn't a very good read.



Legend of Sleepy Hollow by Washington Irving. To get into the Halloween mood!

My Dear Hamilton by Stephanie Dray. Very readable historical fiction featuring Eliza Hamilton. It was a commitment though -- the book was 650+ pages!

Charity read:

Vox by Christina Dalcher. A vaguely futuristic book where women can only speak 100 words a day. It was an interesting read and Charity liked it.

The Reluctant Fundamentalist by Mohsin Hamid. An unusual story with an ambiguous ending that left you feeling you weren't sure what really happened. From Amazon: "At a café table in Lahore, a bearded Pakistani man converses with an uneasy American stranger. As dusk deepens to night, he begins the tale that has brought them to this fateful encounter..."

Mary read:

Small Fry by Lisa Brennan-Jobs. A memoir of growing up in the 70s and 80s with a famous father (Steve Jobs). An interesting read.

Once Upon a River by Diane Setterfield. This was an advanced reader's copy and I pounced on it because I enjoyed her previous book, *The Thirteenth Tale*. I enjoyed this book too, but I had a hard time getting past the fact that I thought the title was extremely dumb.



September 2018 Good Reads Book Club Reading Suggestions

Our next meeting will be **Wed, Oct 3rd at 7 pm** and our discussion book is *Bad Move*, the first in a series of four mysteries by Linwood Barclay.

Marie read:

City of Endless Night - another Preston/Child serial killer thriller featuring Pendergast. These books don't disappoint.

Magpie Murders by Anthony Horowitz. A very good read (Sheila concurs). A mystery writer is writing a book. Part of the story is that book, and the other part of the story are the circumstances surrounding the writer's death. Did he commit suicide, or was he murdered... and why? (Spoiler alert: You have to read it to find out.)

Devil's Crown by James Rollins. A Sigma Force thriller involving creepy prehistoric killer wasps. A good read.

Golden House by Salman Rushdie. This contemporary novel takes place at the end of the Obama administration in Greenwich Village. An interesting and tragic book featuring the Golden family. A slow read, and not easy to read.

Buffalo Bill's Dead Now by Margaret Coel. This is one of the books in the Wind River Arapaho Reservation series that Irene recommended a couple of meetings ago. Great for fans of Tony Hillerman.

Force of Nature by Jane Harper - this is the one about the corporate wilderness retreat. Five women go in... only four come out. Enjoyable.

Margaret read:

The Story of Arthur Truluv by Elizabeth Berg. JoAnn recommended this one, and Margaret devoured it in 2 days. A delightful read, involving the developing friendship between an older man and a young girl.

JoAnn read:

The People vs. Alex Cross by James Patterson. Loved it -- a great read.

Spymaster by Brad Thor. This is part of the series featuring counterterrorism officer Scot Harvath. You learn a lot of fascinating stuff about NATO while reading this action-packed thriller.

Alternate Side by Anna Quindlen. It was an interesting read, but JoAnn disliked the main character and found her annoying. (Pat read this a couple of months ago and liked it, so opinions vary.)

Look Behind You by Iris Johansen. A scary book, but good.

Texas Ranger by James Patterson. Featuring a new character, Rory Yates who (surprise!) is a



Texas Ranger. When he's named a suspect in his ex-wife's murder, he must investigate and clear his name. JoAnn really enjoyed this book.

A Measure of Darkness by Jonathan Kellerman. A deputy coroner investigates various crimes. JoAnn felt the book was disjointed and too long.

The Story of Arthur Truluv by Elizabeth Berg. You'll totally love this, it reminded JoAnn of *Plainsong*. The story of someone who is love, and who projects it in everything he does.

Lovers and Newcomers by Rosie Thomas. A widow invites old friends to come stay with her at her house in the country after her husband dies. At first all goes well, but then it doesn't. The book felt kind of fragmented.

The Perfect Stranger by Megan Miranda. A psychological thriller - "not my cup of tea."

The Quantum Spy by David Ignatius. JoAnn liked this spy thriller (Mary read it and also liked it).

Dottie read:

The Sandman by Lars Kepler. Liked it, although there were a few things that didn't seem to make sense, and it left her with some questions.

The Air You Breathe by Frances DePontes Peebles (holy cow, what a name). This saga of a rich girl and a servant girl begins on a plantation in Brazil and follows their paths in life and their love-hate relationship. Dottie enjoyed it.

Vox by Christina Dalcher. A futuristic novel where women have lost all their rights and are only allowed to speak 100 words a day. It's a good book, interesting, and shows what might happen when a person's rights are slowly and quietly eroded.

Closer Than You Know by Brad Parks. A good read about a woman who's accused of child abuse and being a drug dealer. Her child is taken away from her, but she's being set up. How can she prove her innocence? Enjoyed this one.

Send Down The Rain by Charles Martin. A Vietnam vet suffering from PTSD returns home.

Need to Know by Karen Cleveland. Several other members of the book club have read this book, about the CIA analyst whose job is to uncover sleeper agents. How far will she go to save her own family? Lots of twists and turns, and a good ending.

The Wife Between Us by Greer Hendricks and Sarah Pekkanen. This was a fast read and really good, Dottie would definitely recommend.

Marianne read:

The Only Woman in the Room by Marie Benedict. Another read from this author. This one is historical fiction based on the life of Hedy Lamarr, the movie star actress who was also a



scientist, and whose invention helped the Allies win the war. (This was an ARC - it's coming in mid-January 2019.)

Tangerine by Christine Mangan. A good read featuring relationships between women in Tangiers/Morocco (hence the title).

Catch 22 by Joseph Heller. Marianne decided to read one of the books from the "Great American Read" list that PBS is doing. This book was stupid, brutal, bizarre and inane. It was a chore to read, and Marianne stopped after page 50. (Remember: we all have the right to NOT finish!)

Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe. Another book that made it onto the PBS Great American Reads list. This one was also crappy, featuring a macho jerk main character in a village in Nigeria.

Enchantress of Numbers by Jennifer Chiaverini. A fabulous tale of historical fiction featuring Ava Lovelace, who was the daughter of Lord Byron and was also the first computer programmer.

Remarkable Creatures by Tracy Chevalier. A very good read, this novel features a woman named Mary Anning, who was struck by lightning as a baby and developed a gift of knowing where to find fossils. Says Amazon, "A stunning historical novel that follows the story of two extraordinary 19th century fossil hunters who changed the scientific world forever."

Burning Bright by Tracy Chevalier. This historical novel (are you sensing a theme?) centers on William Blake, who was a very weird guy. An enjoyable read.

Falling Angels by Tracy Chevalier. An absolutely fabulous historical novel about two British families and what they do the day after Queen Victoria dies. Things were not quite as straitlaced in Victorian England as you might believe... one of the husband/wife pairs were swingers.

Sheila read:

The Perfect Couple by Elin Hilderbrand. (An accidental read-- got her mixed up with Lauren Hillenbrand, author of *Seabiscuit* and *Unbroken*.) Murder at a wedding in Nantucket. A good read, will probably read more of this author.

The Death of Mrs. Westaway by Ruth Ware. A good read, enjoyed it.

To Capture What We Cannot Keep by Beatrice Colin. A good historical novel about events surrounding the building of the Eiffel Tower.

The General's Cook by Ramen Ganeshram. Interesting historical fiction about George Washington's chef, who was also a slave. A good read.

Angie read:

Vox and *The Air We Breathe* (Dottie also read these, see above)

Ember by Brock Adams. A first novel. The book begins three years into the process of our sun dying.



Winters are getting longer, summers are cooler -- the story features a married couple who start out in Washington DC but end in a very different place. A good book - and it's set up nicely for a sequel.

What Happened That Night by Sandra Block. A Harvard woman goes to a party and gets drugged and gang raped. What happens after that? Vengeance and justice. A very good book.

Becky read:

A Spark of Light by Jodi Picoult. Picoult is a good writer, but her books are usually about difficult subjects and sometimes hard to read. This one involved abortion clinics and picketing.

Something in the Water by Catherine Steadman. "Holy crap, it was the worst book EVER" even though it made it onto all sorts of "Best Summer Reads" lists.

Lost Creed by Alex Kava. This was a good read.

Feared by Lisa Scottoline. This was about the Rosato & DiNunzio law firm and a case involving reverse sex discrimination. Not her best book.

17th Suspect by James Patterson. One of the Women's Murder Club series. Becky liked it, but sometimes she gets tired of Patterson's writing style.

Pat read:

A Spark of Light by Jodi Picoult. Liked it.

The Hypnotist by Lars Kepler. A serial killer thriller!

Rescued by David Rosenfelt. Another entry in the Andy Carpenter mystery series (set in and around Paterson, NJ)

Sunburn by Laura Lippman. A stupid book, Pat didn't like it at all.

Bad Daughter by Joy Fielding. A terrific read by a very good writer, featuring a very dysfunctional family.

Charity read:

The Lying Game by Ruth Ware. A good beach read. It was a fast read, but nothing special.

Charity is currently reading *The Road to Character* by David Brooks, which she bought at Goodwill for 2 bucks when her boyfriend was looking the other way. It's a good read, talks about how to live your life and find meaning in what you do. Stay tuned for full review.

Mary read:

Zero Sum Game by S. L. Huang. A sci-fi thriller set in the near future. Wait, where are you going? Come back here, it was a great read!

Cringeworthy: a theory of awkwardness by Melissa Dahl. A really interesting book about what makes people embarrassed and/or ashamed. It did a good job of demystifying what happens when you are



extremely embarrassed or ashamed and showing that everyone feels these things occasionally. It's amazing to what lengths some of us will go to avoid having these feelings, but they don't kill you - they just make you uncomfortable, and no one ever died from feeling uncomfortable in a social situation.

Eleven Days by Lea Carpenter. Told in alternating chapters by a woman and her son, this book takes place in the present (the woman's perspective) and the past (the son's perspective, his training and experiences as a Navy SEAL). The son has been missing in action for eleven days. It's a thoughtful, interesting book and I liked it a lot.

Hope Never Dies by Andrew Shaffer. A mystery narrated by Joe Biden, who is investigating the death of an Amtrak conductor who was trying to contact Biden when he died. Biden is at loose ends and is looking for something to keep him busy. Then Obama does get involved, and hijinks ensue. A silly book, and an enjoyable read. I guffawed several times.

The Green Mile by Stephen King. I finally got around to reading this (it has been on my "To Be Read" pile for at least 10 years) and enjoyed it very much. I think Stephen King is a great writer, I'm just too much of a wussy to be able to read his horror stuff.



August 2018 Good Reads Book Club Reading Suggestions

Here are notes from our August 1st meeting. You may remember that I mentioned David Baldacci is starting a new series. The first book is coming out in November and it's called *Long Road to Mercy*. Apparently it features a female protagonist, a criminal profiler whose focus is... SERIAL KILLERS! Yay Pat!

Our next meeting is on Wed. Sept 5th and the book we are reading is *Eleanor and Park* by Rainbow Rowell. Hope you are enjoying it.

For the August meeting we read *Can't Wait To Get To Heaven* by Fannie Flagg, which was a nice relaxing summer read. Very undemanding. Most of us enjoyed it. Other stuff we read this month included:

Dottie read:

The Name of the Wind by Patrick Rothfuss. It's a very long fantasy novel and her son recommended it to her. She enjoyed it. (Note: Mary liked it too)

Angie read:

How It Happened by Michael Koryta. Normally she likes this author, but this one was very confusing - had lots of subplots and characters to keep track of. Angie kept reading, hoping it would get better, but it never did. Don't waste your time.

The Flight Attendant by Chris Bohjalian. Another thumbs down. The characters were weak. Angie described it as "a cheesy lightweight summer reading about a slutty flight attendant who makes bad choices throughout the book."

The Fallen by David Baldacci. This is the latest in the Amos Decker series. It was just OK. Had lots of confusing subplots to keep track of.

Irene read:

Baby's Bones by Rebecca Alexander. "Ehhh."

Forgotten Room by Lincoln Child. It was good.

How to Walk Away by Katherine Center. A bit cheesy and unrealistic.

The 17th Suspect by James Patterson. Another good entry in the Women's Murder Club series.

A Rule Against Murder by Louise Penny. Enjoyed this one.

The General's Cook by Ramin Ganeshram. This was a very interesting read about George Washington's cook, who was a slave. It's an advanced reader's copy - not coming out til November. Irene passed it along to Sheila.

Pat read:



Force of Nature by Jane Harper, which she enjoyed (the second Aaron Falk mystery, after *The Dry*).

The Fire Witness by Lars Kepler. It had a serial killer, so naturally Pat enjoyed it, but she didn't like it as much as *The Sandman* by the same author.

Becky read:

Force of Nature by Jane Harper, which she liked

A Death in Live Oak by James Grippando. The latest in the Jack Swyteck series. A good read.

Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng. This was on a lot of "best summer read" lists. It started slow but then Becky was able to get into it. (Irene disliked it and abandoned it partway through.) Pat will give it a try.

When Life Gives You Lululemons by Lauren Weisberger. A good read.

Sometimes I Lie by Alice Feeney. An unreliable narrator, a twisty and intricate plot... really enjoyed this one.

Say Nothing by Brad Parks. An older entry in the Carter Ross mystery series

All We Ever Wanted by Emily Giffin. A good read.

A Gathering of Secrets by Linda Castillo. The latest in the Kate Burkholder mystery series set in Amish country. Enjoyed it, but it was a little creepy.

The Great Alone by Kristin Hannah. Becky said she completely fell into this book and read it in 2 days. She liked it a lot but she felt the ending disappointed.

Sheila read:

The Perfect Mother by Aimee Molloy. A page turner!

JoAnn read:

Stay Hidden by Paul Doiron - the latest in the Mike Bowditch game warden series.

All American Murder by James Patterson. This nonfiction book was about the football player Aaron Hernandez who murdered someone, went to prison and ended up committing suicide.

Sarah's Window by Janice Graham. A quiet, gentle book about a lonely woman who gives up her dream of being an artist to care for her grandparents, whose life changes again when she meets a small boy and makes a connection with him. A beautiful book.

The Woman in the Woods by John Connolly. A book featuring ugly, depraved crimes. Didn't finish it.

A Gathering of Secrets by Linda Castillo. Enjoyed it, but agreed with Becky that it was a bit creepy.



The Survivor's Club by Lisa Gardner. A group of women who were raped band together. Reading *A Gathering of Secrets* and *The Survivor's Club* so close together was interesting. Both of them deal with women who have been raped, but in different cultural contexts.

Charity read:

No Turning Back by Tracy Buchanan. A thriller that takes place in England.

Marie read:

The Knowledge by Martha Grimes. The new one in her series. Quirky characters, an enjoyable read.

The Ambler Warning by Robert Ludlum. An oldie. The main character is a spy who has amnesia. It was pretty good except for the flowery prose describing the nurse who helped him recover.

River of Doubt by Candice Millard. A nonfiction account of Theodore Roosevelt's trip down the Amazon River. A very interesting read. Irene thinks she might like to read it. (Mary read it awhile ago and also enjoyed it.)

Cave of Bones by Anne Hillerman, the newest in her series. It was good.

Mary read:

Like Brothers by Mark and Jay Duplass. A nonfiction memoir by two brothers who work closely together in the entertainment business. They co-write and co-produce a lot of projects together. The book is interesting, it gives some good advice about how to work closely with someone you love without destroying your relationship with them.

The One You Can't Forget by Roni Loren. An interesting contemporary romance featuring a main character who survived a school shooting 13 years ago. Good dialogue, interesting



July 2018 Good Reads Book Club Reading Suggestions

The book we read for the July meeting was *The Poacher's Son* by Paul Doiron. It's a mystery featuring Maine game warden Mike Bowditch, set in rural Maine. Most of us enjoyed the book - liked the woods setting, enjoyed learning about the warden service. This is the first in a series, so if you enjoyed it, you might want to check out the next several.

Sheila read:

The Collector's Apprentice by B. A. Shapiro. A good art-related read, a lot of interesting information about the art world. Loosely based on true stories dealing with the Barnes collection. Author also wrote *The Art Forger*.

The English Wife by Lauren Willig. Historical fiction set in Gilded Age New York. An English woman marries into a prominent New York family and becomes involved with family secrets. A good story.

Pachinko by Min Ha Lee. Sheila really enjoyed this book. It's the story of several generations of a Korean family living in Japan in the early 20th century, whose livelihood was a popular

gambling game called "Pachinko." Angie and Dottie also read it recently and said it was really powerful, though sometimes hard to read. Koreans were treated badly by the Japanese, and women were treated very poorly in the book. You learned a lot about that period of time -- and it had really wonderful, interesting characters who were richly developed.

The Knowledge by Martha Grimes. One of the Richard Jury series, but not the best read. Too many characters and red herrings to keep track of.

Hellbent by Gregg Hurwitz. The latest in the Orphan X series. A bit too violent.

JoAnn read:

A Better World by Marcus Sakey. The second in the *Brilliance* trilogy. It was "ehhh" and probably won't read the third one.

Operator Down by Brad Taylor. The latest Logan Pike spy thriller. A great read if you're into espionage thrillers!

The Broken Road and *The Forgotten Road* by Richard Paul Evans. These are the first two books in a trilogy and JoAnn really enjoyed them. JoAnn was really interested in the story of the main character's downfall and the road back to redemption. The people he meets throughout the book are interesting and she loved reading their stories. The final book won't be out til next year. (Angie mentioned that she did NOT like the books, but after hearing JoAnn's review, she might give them another chance.)

To Capture What We Cannot Keep by Beatrice Colin. Last month Marianne recommended this historical novel based around the construction of the Eiffel Tower. JoAnn really enjoyed it. "It's just a good book." She passed it along to Sheila to read.



The President Is Missing by James Patterson and Bill Clinton. The beginning and end of the book were written by Clinton and were a bit pompous and political, but the story itself (written by Patterson) was interesting.

Drummer in the Dark by T. Davis Bunn. This is an older thriller (came out in 2002) set in the cutthroat world of international finance. A good read.

The Wife Between Us by Greer Hendricks and Sarah Pekkanen. A great story - a love triangle. A woman who is tired of her husband's controlling ways tries everything she can to make him fall in love with his secretary so the wife can get out of the marriage... but then she feels sorry for the secretary.

The Tenth Circle by Jodi Picoult. A hard read, the story of a family that was already in crisis when one of the daughters gets raped. This is a story of how things spiral out of control.

Pat read:

Twisted Prey by John Sandford. A good read.

The Wanted by Robert Crais. A woman hires a detective to investigate her son.

Look for Me by Lisa Gardner. An entire family is murdered in their house, but the sixteen-year-old daughter is nowhere to be found. Where is she? Was she kidnapped or was she somehow involved in the savage murder?

The Fallen by David Baldacci. As usual, a great read. Baldacci rarely disappoints.

Alternate Sides by Anna Quindlen. A weird read. Mixed feelings.

After Anna by Lisa Scottoline.

Force of Nature by Jane Harper. An Australian corporation sends upper management on a wilderness team building expedition. Five women enter the forest, only four make it out. Inspector Aaron Falk must piece together what happened in the forest. By the author of *The Dry*.

Angie read:

Pachinko. "You should all read it."

The Forbidden Door by Dean Koontz. This latest in the Jane Hawk thriller series will come out in mid-September. Angie felt it was too repetitive of the first book in the series, and didn't hold up well.

The Great Alone by Kristin Hannah. A great read about a family in crisis. The father, a Vietnam vet suffering from PTSD, uproots the family to live off the grid in Alaska. Eventually the thirteen-



year-old daughter and the mother realize that they can no longer count on him to keep them safe or help them survive. Very well done -- gives you a great feel for Alaska and what it's like for people who live off the grid.

Sandman by Lars Kepler. A psychological thriller involving a serial killer and lots of bodies, buried in ice and snow. Loved it. (Pat also loved it. But of course... serial killer.) This is the latest in a series that is written by a husband-and-wife team who use the pseudonym Lars Kepler. Both Angie and Pat are excited to read others in the series.

Dottie read:

Pachinko

American By Day by Derek Miller. This is a semi-sequel to *Norwegian By Night*. A Norwegian cop on the trail of a bad guy comes to America, pairs up with a local sheriff. Police brutality and racism are two of the themes in this book. Liked the first one better, but there are lots of funny cultural confusion moments between the Norwegian cop and the American sheriff.

Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult. Enjoyed this a lot. A white supremacist's baby dies in the hospital and he accuses the black midwife of causing the death. She gets a white woman as her defense lawyer. The novel does a great job of capturing the black nurse's perspective.

Mary read:

The Trespasser and *Bad Little Falls*, the next two in the Mike Bowditch series by Paul Doiron. I like the writing, but after the third one, I decided I need to take a break from this character.

The Impossible Fortress by Jason Rekulak. A coming-of-age story featuring a boy growing up in the mid 1980s, who navigates adolescence and also develops a computer game (written in BASIC and machine language! Geek alert) to enter a contest. A fun read for someone who grew up in that time period.

The Robots of Gotham by Todd McAulty. It's 2080 and intelligent machines have taken over half the world. (I know, that sentence alone would cause most of you to stop reading. But I liked the premise.) I enjoyed the first half of the book, but then it devolved into a teenage boy's fantasy world. Very disappointed.

Flunk, Start: Reclaiming My Decade Lost in Scientology by Sands Hall. A fascinating memoir by a woman who spent most of the 1980s involved in the Scientology cult. I enjoyed this one.

Margaret read:

Our House by Louise Candlish. After Fiona finds out her husband is having an affair, she kicks him out and they get a divorce. They have a co-parenting agreement where each of them stays in the house part of the week with their two young boys. But one day, Fiona finds someone else moving into her house, and all their paperwork appears to be in order. It goes downhill from there.

The logo for Whippanong Library features the word "WHIPPANONG" in a dark red, serif font. A stylized leaf is positioned between the "H" and "P". Below "WHIPPANONG" is the word "LIBRARY" in a black, serif font. The word "LIBRARY" is flanked by two decorative, curved lines that resemble flourishes or wings.

WHIPPANONG LIBRARY

Charity read:

Baby Teeth by Zoje Stage. This is the one Pat really disliked from last month. Charity read it, but found it strange and disturbing. Probably wouldn't read this author again.

A Banquet of Consequences by Elizabeth George. This is one of the Inspector Lynley mysteries. Very well written, and the characters were nicely developed. An enjoyable read.



June 2018 Good Reads Book Club Reading Suggestions

We read *South of Broad* by Pat Conroy for June's meeting, and reviews were mixed. A few people absolutely loved it. Most of us agreed Conroy is a good writer, but he sure did pack the book full of ISSUES. Racism, homophobia, violent fathers, drug use, etc..... Also the slow pace of the novel. And what is it about Southern writers? They loooove Charleston and spend pages and pages describing its mysterious charm. As Sheila said "Southern writers, they do tend to....." and Pat finished the sentence: "...Bloviate."

Verdict: Most of us agreed he's a good writer, but maybe this isn't his best work. A few people loved it, a couple people thought "ehhh" and skipped to the end to see what happened, and Mary (yes, the one leading the discussion) hated it so much that she refused to finish it and just read the online discussion guide instead. (See, we really are the No Guilt book club.)

What to read next?

If you want to mix it up a little, Michelle recommended a website called Modern Mrs. Darcy (<https://members.modernmrsdarcy.com/>) which suggests books to read that get you out of your comfort zone.

We also discussed the PBS show *Great American Read*, which has several episode airing through October. You can vote on your favorite books out of a list of 100 books they chose (view or print the list here: <http://www.pbs.org/the-great-american-read/books/#/>)

For a fun twist on this, one PBS station put together a related "book bingo" card that is also designed to get you to read stuff you might not otherwise do, and you can print it out here: http://pbs.bento.storage.s3.amazonaws.com/hostedbento-prod/filer_public/RMPBS%20education/GreatAmericanRead/RMPBS-BookBingo-GreatAmericanRead.pdf

Now back to what everybody read.

Dottie won a copy of Ruth Ware's newest book, *The Death of Mrs. Westaway*, in a GoodReads giveaway. She said it's very Gothic in tone and slow to start. It took about halfway through the book for it to really grab her. After that, the book was scary and creepy. She gives it 3 out of 5 stars.

Dottie also read *We Own The Sky* by Luke Allnut. Parents of a boy with a fatal brain tumor find that the stress of his illness and death breaks up their marriage, but later they find their way back together. (Spoiler: yes, the kid dies, "but in a glorious way.") It's a nice story, and a tearjerker.

Death Comes In Through The Kitchen - this was one Irene had recommended last month. Dottie thought it was okay but probably wouldn't recommend.



Irene read:

Lincoln in the Bardo by George Saunders. It was strange.. She's still not sure if she liked it. It's sort of supernatural so we all thought Angie might like it. Sheila had also read this and said she thought it was inventive. (This book won the Booker Prize in 2017.)

Manhattan Beach by Jennifer Egan. An interesting book about a woman working in the Brooklyn Naval yards during World War I. Enjoyed it.

Cave of Bones by Anne Hillerman. This is her third book, and she's getting better as a writer.

One Thousand White Women by Jim Fergus. It was interesting, but not a quick read.

The Christmas Thief by Mary & Carol Higgins Clark. Very light and fluffy -- needed a break from serious books!

Widow's Walk by Robert B. Parker. One of the Spenser novels-- a fun, fast read.

Becky read:

The Sandman by Lars Kepler. A very good Scandinavian thriller (this is the third in the series), hand-delivered to Becky by Pat, who insisted she had to read it!

Still Me by JoJo Moyes. Enjoyable, but liked *Me Before You* better.

Hellbent by Gregg Hurwitz. 3rd in the Orphan X series. Definitely better than #2, but not as good as the first one.

The Wife by Alafair Burke. Liked it a lot, even though she can't remember what it was actually about.

The Wife Between Us by Sarah Pekkanen. Liked this one a lot, but do yourself a favor and DON'T read the ending first like Becky did. You'll enjoy it more.

Closer Than You Know by Brad Parks. An enjoyable thriller featuring a cop. Very good; Becky recommended it to her mother.

Red Alert by James Patterson. Not the best in this series, but tolerable.

Girl Unknown by Karen Perry. It was really good, although the plot is unknown because Becky can't remember what it was about.

Angie read:

We Own the Sky by Luke Allnut. She was the one who made Dottie read it. She liked it.



Pat read:

Night Moves by Jonathan Kellerman. Pat usually likes his books, but this one was complicated and had way too many characters to keep track of. Not a favorite.

Look Behind You by Iris Johansen. A good read if you like this series (Kendra Michaels series)

Dead End by David Baldacci. Enjoyable -- does not disappoint. Baldacci is consistently good.

Baby Teeth by Zoje Stage. This was an advanced reader's copy that got good buzz. Pat summed it up succinctly: "Yuck." The book features a woman whose young child is evil and keeps trying to kill her, but no one else in the family believes the mother. The only person who wanted to read it after Pat got done reviewing it was Charity, who took it home to see what she'd think of it.

Sheila read:

The Woman in the Window by A. J. Finn. A very "noir" novel. Enjoyable.

The Good Daughter by Karin Slaughter. A good read, but a bit repetitive.

House of Names by Colm Toibin. An interesting story based on a Greek myth.

A Rising Man by Abir Mukherjee. This is a new detective series set in 1930s Calcutta, featuring a British detective and his Indian assistant. Liked the characters -- a well-done novel.

Reservoir 13 by Jon McGregor. A very interesting book, but not for everyone. You'd know within the first ten pages if you would like it or not. It starts out as a murder mystery but becomes a sort of stream of consciousness of everyone who lives in the village where the crime was committed.

The Lying Game by Ruth Ware. A good read.

The Address by Fiona Davis, a historical novel set at the historic Dakota building in New York City. Sheila thought it was a good read. Marianne, who read it a few months ago, agreed.

A Gentleman from Moscow by Amor Towles. Loved it -- the entire book was set in one place, but it never got boring. It was amazing how much Russian history the author knows. Irene and Mary, who have also read the book, agreed that it is fantastic.

Alternate Sides by Anna Quindlen. She's a good writer -- this book features wealthy people living in New York City who are focused on where to park their cars, until something unexpected happens. Liked it.

Marianne read:

Carnegie's Maid by Marie Benedict. This is the author of *The Other Einstein* which Marianne recently read. A very good historical novel featuring a young Irish immigrant, Clara Kelly, who stumbles into a job being the maid to Mrs. Andrew Carnegie. An enjoyable read.



A Fierce Radiance by Lauren Belfer. Historical fiction centered upon the discovery of penicillin. Truly fabulous. Highly recommended.

The Paris Architect by Charles Belfoure. Loved it.

House of Thieves by Charles Belfoure. Same author as *The Paris Architect*. This one had a good description of the main character, who is an architect inadvertently forced into assisting burglars with what he knows about buildings he's designed. Marianne liked *The Paris Architect* better but this one was still good.

To Capture What We Cannot Keep by Beatrice Colin. Historical fiction about a guy who knows Eiffel, the architect of -- yep, you guessed it, the Eiffel Tower. It's a great story and an excellent read.

Love and Ruin by Paula McLain. This is about Ernest Hemingway's third wife, Martha Gellhorn, who was a very respected journalist and war correspondent in her own right. She was also the only one of Hemingway's wives to leave him. A very interesting book.

JoAnn read:

The Sixth Day by Catherine Coulter and J. T. Ellison. *eye roll* "Don't waste your time."

The Cutting Edge by Jeffrey Deaver. A really good story, liked it a lot.

The Road Home by Beverly Lewish. A heartwarming story set in Amish country. Enjoyed it.

The Disappeared by C. J. Box. A very enjoyable read. Two interesting storytimes in one good book.

Shattered Mirrors by Iris Johansen. An Eve Duncan novel. JoAnn has decided she doesn't like this series.

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith. JoAnn decided to read this book after learning that it was one of the most popular with GIs during World War II (which she learned from *When Books Went to War* by Molly Manning, which we read a few months ago). She remembers reading it as a kid and enjoying it, but it was very interesting to read it now as an adult. She really got a different perspective and understood much better the perspective of the parents in the novel.

Twisted Prey by John Sandford. Highly enjoyable. "You're gonna love the twist at the end."

Red Alert by James Patterson. JoAnn agrees with Becky -- this wasn't his best.

Brilliance by Marcus Sakey.

The 17th Suspect by James Patterson. This is the latest in the Women's Murder Club series and was really good. Two different storylines in the book, both are excellent.

No Turning Back by Tracy Buchanan. An interesting story; twisty psychological suspense.



The Fallen by David Baldacci. A great story, well worth reading.

Michelle read:

Hunger: A Memoir of My Body by Roxane Gay. Nonfiction -- about how food has affected the author's life. Really good.

Incident at Big Sky by Malcolm McConnell. Also nonfiction, this was about a crime that took place in the 1980s and was an interesting and engaging read.

Rabbit Run by John Updike. It took awhile to get through this book, which features a guy who's having an affair and his shattered marriage. Probably won't read any other Updike books.

Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte. One of the worst books Michelle has ever read. All of the characters were miserable. (Note: Mary heartily agrees. This book is wayyy overrated.)

A Farewell to Arms by Ernest Hemingway. A classic.

Charity read:

Brilliance by Marcus Sakey. An engaging read.

Guilty as Sin by Tami Hoag. It was boring! Kept hoping it would get better or more interesting, but it never did.

*Bucky F*cking Dent* by David Duchovny. It's the story of the relationship that develops between an estranged father and a son after the son moves back home to help care for his father, who is dying of lung cancer. The father is a die-hard Red Sox fan (hence the book's title). Really enjoyed this story.

Need to Know by Karen Cleveland. A really good thriller with a great ending. A fast read.

Mary read:

The High Season by Judy Blundell. Had high hopes for this book, featuring a museum curator on Nantucket. It looked like a great beach read. However, it turned out to be a hot mess. I wouldn't recommend it.

The Silent Patient by Alex Michaelides. This was getting all kinds of buzz at the Day of Dialog (Book Expo for librarians). "There's a twist you'll never see coming at the end!" they said. I'll be interested to see what other people think of the book. I was unimpressed.

Manhood: How to be a better man - or just live with one by Terry Crews. An interesting autobiography/instruction book that shows how Terry Crews has worked hard to transform himself into a better husband, a better father and a good human being. I wanted to read this book because I saw Terry Crews being interviewed by Trevor Noah and he was very erudite and interesting. The book didn't disappoint.



God Save Texas: A Journey into the Soul of the Lone Star State by Lawrence Wright. A combination history of Texas/autobiography. Lawrence Wright is a really good journalist and an

excellent writer. I enjoyed what I read of the book, but I abandoned it about a third of the way through because I had to return it to the library. Hoping to get back to it at some point.

Allison could not make it to the June meeting but wanted to share a book she is really enjoying. "I am currently reading *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman and I cannot recommend this book more. I can't remember the last time I enjoyed a book this much so I felt compelled to share it with someone else who loves reading!" (Note: Reese Witherspoon bought the film rights to this in 2017, so we may eventually see it come out as a movie.)



May 2018 Good Reads Book Club Reading Suggestions

Due to weather and me being away in April, we hadn't met since January. We read three books in the interim: *Plainsong* by Kent Haruf (some of us loved it and went on to read the others that he wrote, all set in the fictional town of Holt, Colorado. Others didn't care for it) *The Faithful Spy* by Alex Berensen. This is the first of a series featuring ex-CIA agent John Wells. Most thought it was good - very intense. And finally, *When Books Went to War* by Molly Manning, the non-fiction account of how librarians and publishers worked together to provide books to educate and entertain WWII soldiers by developing special "armed service editions" of selected books. Most felt that this was too "textbook-y" (maybe it'd have been better if we had just read an article).

After the discussion of the "assigned" books we got down to the business of talking about what we've been reading. Here is a partial list!

Rachel read:

As Good As True by Cheryl Reed. An interesting story involving a community where racial prejudice yields not-good outcomes.

Bone Music by Christopher Rice- this is book 1 of the Burning Girl series and involves a girl who was kidnapped by serial killers when they killed her mother and who, when she is rescued, continues to be exploited by her father. Then she decides to take matters into her own hands.

Blood on the Tracks by Barbara Nicholas - featuring main character Tucker, who was disfigured in the war

Say You're Sorry by Melinda Leigh (book 1 of the Morgan Dane series)

The Skin Collector by Jeffrey Deaver - not as good as the others in the series.

Angie read:

He Said She Said by Erin Kelly. This thriller features a young couple who travel to Cornwall, England to witness the eclipse. When a murder occurs, it changes everyone's lives.

The Stars are Fire by Anita Shreve. A woman trapped in a bad marriage in 1947 Maine must rally and save her children from her husband. A very good woman-power book: the main character transforms from wishy-washy to very strong.

Beartown by Fredrik Backman. The story of a small town that loves its hockey team, and the events that occur. Angie loved this, but Irene absolutely hated it. It's interesting because it's a book that seems to elicit strong emotions. Most of the people I've talked to about it either loved it, or hate hate hated it.

Angie read several other books involving death, murder, mayhem and etc.



The books Dottie read included:

Before They Were Yours by Lisa Wingate

Endgame by David Baldacci

Two books in the Inspector Gamache series by Louise Penny: *The Beautiful Mystery* and *The Long Way Home*

Eventide and *Benediction*, the second and third books in the Holt series by Kent Haruf

Beneath a Scarlet Sky by Mark Sullivan

The Kitchen House by Kathleen Grissom

If I Die Tonight by Allison Gaylin

Irene read:

Death Comes In Through The Kitchen by Teresa Dovepage. This was an Advanced Reader's copy. It was an easy read, and very interesting.

Red Alert by James Patterson, the last in the NYPD Red series

Orphan Keeper by Camron Wright, the guy who previously wrote *The Rent Collector*. It's about a boy who is kidnapped from his home in India and, when he escapes, tries to find his family again.

The Alice Network by Kate Quinn. Enjoyable.

The Chaperone by Laura Moriarty. Ehhhhh.. it was ok.

Pat read:

Secrets in Death by J. D. Robb, the latest Eve Dallas mystery

Sandman by Lars Kepler Loved this one -- it was a fantastic serial killer book, passed it along to Becky to read.

Need to Know by Karen Cleveland. It was a wonderful book, really suspenseful. Read it so fast, couldn't put it down. The first novel by a former CIA agent. It was an Advance Reader copy and was blurbed by Lee Child.

A Justified Bitch: A Las Vegas Mystery by H. G. McKinnis. A crazy cat lady gets involved when her neighbor gets murdered. An odd book, but interesting.

Girl in Snow by Danya Kukafka. A Colorado high schooler is brutally murdered in a small town. There are three possible murderers. What secrets are they hiding and which one killed her?



Deep Freeze by John Sandford

The Wife Between Us by Sarah Pekkanen

The Woman in the Window by A. J. Finn. "It was okay."

The Flight Attendant by Chris Bohjalian. This one was kind of interesting.

City of Endless Night by Preston and Child - the latest in the Pendergast mystery series

Two Kinds of Truth by Michael Connelly. A Harry Bosch book - loved it.

Disappeared by C. J. Box -- one of the Joe Pickett series

Charity read:

Song of the Captive Bird by Jasmin Darznik. Based on a real person's life, this novel explores the life of a scandalous female poet in 1950s Iran.

Marianne read:

Stolen Beauty by Laurie Albanese. Loved this book. It started as a love story between Gustav Klimt and his muse in the early 20th century, then focused on the woman's niece in the days before World War II. The movie *Woman in Gold* was loosely based on this story. A great read.

A Piece of the World by Christina Baker Kline. A fabulous book, featuring the house that was made famous in Andrew Wyeth's painting "Christina's World."

Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng. A good read, and interesting.

Eventide and *Benediction* by Kent Haruf - enjoyed these very much.

Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult. A good story.

Educated by Tara Westover. Very interesting.

Black Flies by Shannon Burke. Disliked this one.

Woman in Cabin 10 by Ruth Ware. Bizarre. A waste of time to read.

The Good Father by Noah Hawley - a very good read, she was glad Marie had recommended it

Born a Crime by Trevor Noah. Very enjoyable, an interesting read.

My Beloved World by Sonia Sotomayor. Very interesting and a good read.

Mary read



Warning Light by David Riccardi. This debut thriller is definitely edge-of-your-seat riveting, but I couldn't suspend my disbelief about the main character's improbable survival long enough to really enjoy the book.

How to Walk Away by Katherine Center. A woman finds herself changed in many ways by a plane crash she experiences with her fiancé as the pilot.

The Man Who Caught The Storm by Brant Hargrove - nonfiction account of tornado chaser Tim Samaras, his life, his work, and the storm that killed him.

Every Note Played by Lisa Genova. The latest book by the author of *Still Alice*, this one features a concert pianist who discovers he has ALS and how he and his ex-wife reconnect through the disease.

Force of Nature by Jane Harper - the second mystery in the Aaron Falk series, set in Australia (several of us read the first one, *The Dry*)

In Shock: My Journey from Death to Recovery and the Redemptive Power of Hope by Rana Awdish. Soon after graduating medical school and beginning to practice medicine, Dr. Awdish found herself in a very precarious medical position and had to fight through several years of extreme illness to get back to health. This book talks about how her experiences as a patient helped her become a better and more caring doctor.



January 2018 Good Reads Book Club Reading Suggestions

Our discussion book for January 2018 was *Before I Go To Sleep* by S. J. Watson. Most of us liked it - and also thought that it was a scary, creepy thriller. It was hard to guess who the bad guy was - you kept changing your mind. A good read.

For February we'll read *Plainsong* by Kent Haruf, which was published to very positive reviews several years ago. One reviewer wrote, "Every sentence, every description is just perfect." Hope we agree!

Marianne read:

When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi. A young surgeon dying of lung cancer writes about what medicine means to him now that he's seeing it from the viewpoint of a patient. Thought provoking and depressing - a very good read.

Major Pettigrew's Last Stand by Helen Simonson. The Montville book club read this one. Marianne enjoyed it - thought it was a very good read.

A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles. Last month Irene mentioned that she had a book hangover after having finished this book - it felt like everything else paled in comparison. That description intrigued Marianne, so she picked it up. She loved it too, and immediately recommended it to someone else.

Madeline's War by Peter Watson. Historical fiction and a love story. An injured soldier returns from the front to train resistance fighters who will infiltrate the enemy countries. Madeline is one of those who is trained. This is her story. Loved the book, highly recommended it. Someone else took it home, so we'll see what they think after they read it.

The Alice Network by Kate Quinn. A gripping, heart pounding tale set soon after World War II. A woman is trying to find out what happened to her beloved French cousin during the war, and tracks down the person who can help her find out -- a spy who'd been active in World War I and also in World War II. Gripping, heart pounding.

JoAnn read:

Young Jane Young by Gabrielle Zevin. A good read, and a nice antidote to grim detective stories. Jane Young does something stupid when she is young and ends up in a debacle of shame. The story is about her hard journey to reinvent herself. The story was told well, with humor and care. (Note: this author also wrote *The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry*.)

The Identicals by Elin Hilderbrand. A similar story as *Young Jane Young* - twin sisters try to reinvent themselves by switching lives. An adult version of *The Parent Trap*? An enjoyable read.

Count to Ten by James Patterson. Takes place in India with Jack Morgan, the hero from the Private novels. It was difficult to keep all the characters straight because all the names were very unfamiliar.



Enchantress of Numbers by Jennifer Chiaverini. Historical fiction about Ada Lovelace, the daughter of Lord Byron. Her demanding mother controlled her entire life and steered her into a career in mathematics. Lovelace worked with Charles Babbage to work out the math and design of the first machine calculator (the Difference Engine). She is known today as the first woman computer scientist.

Deep Freeze by John Sandford. A Virgil Flowers mystery set in Minnesota. Virgil Flowers is a wonderful character and the novel was a lot of fun.

All is Not Forgotten by Wendy Walker. A good book, though (ironically) apparently not particularly memorable... because it was our discussion book back in June. Well, JoAnn liked it this time too. :)

Pat read:

Dead Fall by Linda Fairstein. Pat likes most of Fairstein's books, but didn't care for this one.

House of Spies by Daniel Silva. Silva is always a good read but the book was very intense, disturbing. It featured bad situations that you feel could really be happening in the world right now.

Seeing Red by Sandra Brown

I Know A Secret by Tess Gerritsen

Midnight Line by Lee Child. Loved it. This is the one where Reacher finds a West Point class ring in a pawn shop and tries to locate the owner, which puts him smack into the middle of the opioid crisis.

Keep Her Safe by Sophie Hannah. Odd and bizarre. Wouldn't recommend it.

Irene read:

The Chalk Man by C. J. Tudor. This was an advanced reader copy, and is the debut novel from this author. Irene highly recommended it and passed it along to Becky, who will report back whether she liked it.

Christmas Caramel Murder by Joanna Fluke. Always enjoy her books, they are a fun read.

Glass Houses by Louise Penny. The latest Inspector Gamache mystery. Enjoyable!

NYPD Red by James Patterson. A very good read about a pair of detectives in (you guessed it) New York City.

The Day The World Came To Town : 9/11 in Gander, Newfoundland by Jim DeFede. This is a nonfiction book about all the planes that were unexpectedly grounded after 9/11 and how so many of them ended up in this tiny town. The residents rose to the occasion with hospitality. The play *Come From Away* is based on the book. Enjoyable!



Becky read:

Turtles All The Way Down by John Green. It's the new teen book released by the guy who wrote *The Fault In Our Stars*. Becky thought it was overrated. "This book sucked."

In The Dark Ground by Stuart MacBride. Scottish brogue accents written out on the page are difficult to understand.

Before Evil by Alex Kava. This is a prequel for the Maggie O'Dell series. An interesting read.

The Rooster Bar by John Grisham. Liked it better than his previous one, *Camino Island*, but the ending was a little weird.

Charity read:

The Snowman by Jo Nesbo. Scandinavian thriller featuring Detective Harry Hole. Creepy, scary, dark, and very enjoyable.

Mary read:

Blame by Jeff Abbott. This was recommended by JoAnn last month. Liked the story very much, the writing was excellent, but was disappointed by the ending. The rest of the book was so well done, I thought the ending was a bit over the top.

The Quantum Spy by David Ignatius. An interesting thriller about the CIA trying to keep other world powers from developing quantum computing (which is very powerful). There's a mole in the CIA and you get her perspective, the perspective of the Chinese operative who is running her, and an all-American Chinese-American CIA agent who is in the uncomfortable position of having his loyalty questioned because of the way he looks. An enjoyable read - there were a few technical moments, and I just skipped over them!

The Danger Within Us: America's Untested, Unregulated Medical Device Industry and One Man's Battle to Survive It by medical journalist Jeanne Lenzer. A very scary read, and I wish it was fiction.