



January 2019 Good Reads Book Club Reading Suggestions

For the January meeting we read *Girl in Translation* by Jean Kwok. Most of us liked the book. For our February meeting, which will be Wed Feb 6th, we'll read *The Port Chicago 50* by Steve Sheinkin. It's a nonfiction account of a little-known incident that happened in the Navy during World War II. Hopefully you'll find it interesting, like I did.

Now for the good part.

Rachel read:

Stalking Ground by Margaret Mizushima. This is the second in the series (we read the first one for our December meeting). It was fine, but a very similar plot to the first one, so Rachel probably won't bother to read any more in the series.

JoAnn read:

The Reckoning by John Grisham. Liked the book, though parts were difficult to read because it goes into what the character experienced while he was fighting in World War II.

Past Tense by Lee Child. Reacher visits New Hampshire. A disappointing read, not up to par for the series. (FYI, Becky's parents also read the book and warned her away from reading it.)

Once Upon A River by Diane Setterfield. Set in the late 1800s in a small village along a river in England, this book was a little different. Some supernatural aspects. How people tell stories, and how stories change and affect us.

Marianne read:

Young Jane Young by Gabrielle Zevin. This was a recent choice of the Montville evening book club. An interesting read about a young woman who gets involved in a scandal with a politician, who is blamed for the scandal and has to try to pick up the pieces of her life. (By the author of *The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry*)

Virgil Wander by Leif Enger. An enjoyable read about life in a small town, where everybody knows everyone else's business. Similar to books by Richard Russo, another chronicler of life in small towns.

The Light over London by Julia Kelly. It was a good read, and Marianne would recommend it.

Charity read:

Looker by Laura Sims. A very short, creepy good read. A woman whose own marriage is in trouble becomes a little too obsessed with her neighbor (who is a TV star).

Origin by Dan Brown. It was OK.

Elevation by Steven King. A very short read (under 200 pages) that takes place in Castle Rock, Maine (where many of his other books are set). Amazon says: "a riveting, extraordinarily eerie, and moving story about a man whose mysterious affliction brings a small town together—a timely, upbeat tale about finding common ground despite deep-rooted differences."



Interpreter of Maladies by Jhumpa Lahiri. This was a book of short stories about families and relationships. The author won the Pulitzer Prize for this book, and Charity definitely recommends it.

Becky read:

We Begin Our Ascent by Joe Mungo Reed. This debut novel was on several “best of 2018” lists. A very interesting book, so different, featuring a professional cyclist who becomes involved in doping while riding in the Tour de France. Becky would recommend it.

Our House by Louise Candlish. It’s very twisty and entertaining. Highly recommended.

Under My Skin by Lisa Unger. A horrible read. Usually Becky likes this author, but definitely give this a miss.

Nine Perfect Strangers by Liane Moriarty. Liked it, but not as much as Liane Moriarty’s previous books.

Unclaimed Baggage by Jen Doll. A sad teen book about all these teenagers working in a warehouse where unclaimed baggage goes to be sold if no one picks it up.

Believe Me by J. P. Delaney. Becky read it so long ago that she can’t remember what it’s about, but remembers enough to know she liked it!

Pat read:

Nine Perfect Strangers by Liane Moriarty. Still can’t figure out if she liked it. (Mary read it too, and agreed that it was not as good as the author’s previous books.)

Feared by Lisa Scottoline. It was good.

Holy Ghost by John Sandford. Virgil Flowers (always enjoyable) and the Minnesota police.

Long Road to Mercy by David Baldacci. Featuring a female FBI agent. Thought it was really good.

Irene read:

To Capture What We Cannot Keep (recommended by Marianne). Irene didn’t think she’d like it but she ended up enjoying it very much!

Lethal White by Robert Galbraith. Fourth in the Cormoran Strike series, and a whopping 647 pages long. A cabinet minister is being blackmailed and wants Cormoran to find some dirt on the person who is blackmailing him. Irene really enjoyed it.

Dottie read:

Everybody’s Son by Thrity Umrigar, which Marianne had recommended. It’s about power, obsession, parental love... loved the book. Definitely worth a read.

Mary read:

The Monkey’s Raincoat by Robert Crais. This is the first in the Elvis Cole/Joe Pike series set in Los Angeles. It was a fun read. Style is very similar to the Spenser novels (wisecracking P.I.).



Apparently the title comes from a famous Haiku by Matsuo Basho, which is quoted at the beginning of the book: "Winter downpour, even the monkey needs a raincoat."

Shell Game by Sara Paretsky. This is the newest in the V. I. Warshawski series. If you haven't read any of the earlier ones, V. I. is a very kick-ass PI living in Chicago. She usually gets beaten up a couple of times in each book, but she always comes out swinging. Great writing, I always enjoy her books even though they can be kind of grim.

A Redbird Christmas by Fannie Flagg. This enjoyable short novel features a lonely, ailing, alcoholic Chicago guy who's told he needs to find a warmer climate if he wants to get better. So he decides to get out of the city and rents a room in a small, tight-knit quirky Southern community, where the residents take an interest in him and he slowly comes out of his shell. A really nice read, I enjoyed it.