

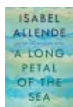


## PARK RIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOK DISCUSSION SETS



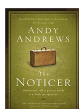
Alam, Rumaan **LEAVE THE WORLD BEHIND** 2020

Sheltering in a New York beach house with a couple that has taken refuge during a massive blackout, a family struggles for information about the power failure while wondering if the cut-off property is actually safe.



Allende, Isabel **A LONG PETAL OF THE SEA** 2019

Sponsored by the poet Pablo Neruda to flee the violence of the Spanish Civil War, a pregnant widow and an army doctor unite in an arranged marriage only to be swept up by the early days of World War II.



Andrews, Andy **THE NOTICER** 2009

The Noticer is part auto-biographical, part fiction, and all inspiring. It is the story of "Jones," a mysterious old man who has a knack for showing up at just the right time in people's lives. He notices stuff, stuff that they miss and he gives them the one thing we all so often need: perspective. Nonfiction. Generously donated by the **MBC Book Club**.



Atkinson, Kate **SHRINES OF GAIIETY** 2022

In London after the Great War, Nellie Carter, the notorious and ruthless queen of a dazzling, seductive and corrupt new world in the clubs of Soho, finds her success breeding enemies as she faces threats from without and within, revealing the dark underbelly beneath Soho's gaiety.



Backman, Fredrik **ANXIOUS PEOPLE** 2020

Taken hostage by a failed bank robber while attending an open house, eight anxiety-prone strangers—including a redemption-seeking bank director, two couples who would fix their marriages and a plucky octogenarian—discover their unexpected common traits.



Backman, Fredrik **BEARTOWN** 2017

In the tiny forest community of Beartown, the possibility that the amateur hockey team might win a junior championship, bringing the hope of revitalization to the fading town, is shattered by the aftermath of a violent act that leaves a young girl traumatized.



Backman, Fredrik **THE WINNERS** 2022

As simmering tensions between the towns of Beartown and Hed turn into acts of intimidation and then violence, a 14-year-old boy, increasingly alienated from this hockey-obsessed community, puts in motion a plan to avenge his beloved sister's death that will leave Beartown with an unimaginable loss. Generously donated by the **MBC Book Club**.



Baker, Chandler **THE HUSBANDS** 2021

When Nora meets a group of high-powered women whose husbands' are supportive unlike her own, she discovers that the women use an unorthodox method of couples' therapy that has transformed their lives—one that is worth killing for.



Benedict, Marie **THE MYSTERY OF MRS. CHRISTIE** 2021

Claiming amnesia after going missing for more than a week in late 1926, up-and-coming mystery author Agatha Christie pens a chilling story that brashly implicates her war-hero husband.



Benedict, Marie **THE PERSONAL LIBRARIAN** 2021

Hired by J. P. Morgan to curate a collection of rare manuscripts, books and artwork for his newly built Pierpont Morgan Library, Belle de Costa Greene becomes one of the most powerful women in New York despite the dangerous secret she keeps.



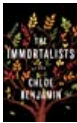
Bennett, Brit **THE MOTHERS** 2016

Seventeen year old Nadia Turner has her world turned upside down when her mother commits suicide and shortly thereafter, she discovers she's pregnant with the pastor's son's child. Nadia finds a safe harbor in her best friend Aubrey, but as the years go by, her past decisions invade the present, ushering in a new wave of wounds. Generously donated by **The Friends of the Park Ridge Library**.



Bennett, Brit **THE VANISHING HALF** 2020

Separated by their embrace of different racial identities, two mixed-race identical twins reevaluate their choices as one raises a black daughter in their southern hometown while the other passes for white with a husband who is unaware of her heritage.



Benjamin, Chloe **THE IMMORTALISTS** 2018

It's 1969 in New York City's Lower East Side, and word has spread of the arrival of a mystical woman, a traveling psychic who claims to be able to tell anyone the day they will die. The Gold children sneak out to hear their fortunes. Their prophecies inform their next five decades. Golden boy Simon escapes to the West Coast, searching for love in '80s San Francisco; dreamy Klara becomes a Las Vegas magician, obsessed with blurring reality and fantasy; eldest son Daniel seeks security as an army doctor post-9/11, hoping to control fate; and bookish Varya throws herself into longevity research, where she tests the boundary between science and immortality.



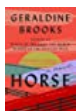
Berg, Elizabeth **THE CONFESSION CLUB** 2019

Invited to join a supper club where friends in their community support each other throughout private setbacks, two women enduring difficult relationships discover the power of friendship and sharing their secrets.



Berg, Elizabeth **THE STORY OF ARTHUR TRULUV** 2018

Arthur, a widower, meets Maddy, an angry and friendless teenage girl, while visiting his late wife at the cemetery, where he goes every day for lunch. Against all odds, the two strike up a friendship that pulls them out of a serious rut. They band together with Arthur's nosy neighbor Lucille, to create lives that are truly worth living. Proving that life's most precious moments are sweeter when shared, they go from strangers, to friends, to an untraditional but loving family. Generously donated by **The Friends of the Park Ridge Library**.



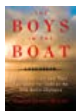
Brooks, Geraldine **HORSE** 2022

A scientist from Australia and a Nigerian-American art historian become connected by their shared interest in a 19th century race horse, one studying its remains, the other uncovering the history of the Black horsemen who were critical to its success.



Brown, Austin Channing **I'M STILL HERE** 2018

The author's first encounter with a racialized America came at age seven, when her parents told her they named her Austin to deceive future employers into thinking she was a white man. She grew up in majority-white schools, organizations, and churches, and has spent her life navigating America's racial divide as a writer, a speaker, and an expert helping organizations practice genuine inclusion. Nonfiction.



Brown, Daniel **THE BOYS IN THE BOAT** 2014

This robust book tells the story of the University of Washington's 1936 eight-oar crew and their epic quest for an Olympic gold medal, a team that transformed the sport and grabbed the attention of millions of Americans. Nonfiction.



Bryson, Bill **A WALK IN THE WOODS** 1997

Traces the author's adventurous trek along the Appalachian Trail past its natural pleasures, human eccentrics, and offbeat comforts. Nonfiction. Generously donated by **Tattered Readers**.



Carreyrou, John **BAD BLOOD: SECRETS AND LIES IN A SILICON VALLEY STARTUP** 2018

Recounts the story behind Theranos, the medical equipment company that misled investors to believe they developed a revolutionary blood testing machine, detailing how its CEO, Elizabeth Holmes, perpetuated the lie to bolster the value of the company by billions. Nonfiction.



Chamberlain, Diane **NECESSARY LIES** 2014

Caring for her family on their mid-20th-century tobacco farm after the loss of her parents, 15-year-old Ivy connects with Grace County social worker Jane, who strains her personal and professional relationships with her advocacy of Ivy's family, whose dark secrets test Jane's resolve against racial tensions and state-mandated sterilizations.



Clark, Julie **THE LAST FLIGHT** 2020

Working for months on a plan to escape her secretly violent husband, Claire impulsively swaps airline tickets with a stranger also on the run before a fateful accident compels her to assume the other's identity.



Coates, Ta-Nehisi **BETWEEN THE WORLD AND ME** 2015

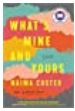
Told through the author's own evolving understanding of the subject over the course of his life comes a bold and personal investigation into America's racial history and its contemporary echoes. Nonfiction.



Cooper, Anderson **VANDERBILT: THE RISE AND FALL OF AN AMERICAN DYNASTY** 2021

Drawing on never-before-seen documents and told from a unique insider's viewpoint, the CNN anchor and New York Times bestselling author tells the story of his legendary family and their remarkable influence. Nonfiction. Generously donated by the **BBC book club**.





Coster, Naima **WHAT'S MINE AND YOURS** 2021

Integrated into a predominantly white high school, an anxious young Black student and a half-Latina whose mother would have her pass as white join a bridge-building school play that shapes the trajectory of their adult lives.



Cronin, Marianne **THE ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF LENNI AND MARGOT** 2021

Determined to leave a mark on the world even though they are in the hospital and their days are dwindling, unlikely friends, 17-year-old Lenni and 83-year-old Margot, devise a plan to create 100 paintings showcasing the stories of the century they have lived. Generously donated by the **Book Marques book club in memory of Lois Cuttone**.



Diaz, Hernan **TRUST** 2022

Told from the perspective of one woman bent on disentangling fact from fiction, this unrivaled novel about money, power, intimacy and perception is centered around the mystery of how the Rask family acquired their immense fortune in 1920s-1930's New York City.



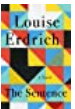
Doyle, Glennon **UNTAMED** 2020

An activist, speaker and philanthropist offers a memoir wrapped in a wake-up call that reveals how women can reclaim their true, untamed selves by breaking free of the restrictive expectations and cultural conditioning that leaves them feeling dissatisfied and lost. Nonfiction.



Egan, Jennifer **MANHATTAN BEACH** 2018

Anna and her father Eddie arrive at the home of Dexter Styles on Manhattan Beach searching for a job during the Depression. After Eddie goes missing five years later, Anna supports her mother and sister by working at the Brooklyn Naval Yard. One night, Anna approaches Styles for information about her father. They become involved, but he is still marked by his past relationship with Eddie.



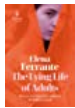
Erdrich, Louise **THE SENTENCE** 2021

In this stunning and timely novel, Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award-winning author Louise Erdrich creates a wickedly funny ghost story, a tale of passion, of a complex marriage, and of a woman's relentless errors.



Erlick, Nikki **THE MEASURE** 2022

When every person, all over the globe, receives a small wooden box bearing the same inscription and a single piece of string inside, the world is thrown into a collective frenzy, in this novel told through multiple perspectives that introduces an unforgettable cast of characters.



Ferrante, Elena **THE LYING LIFE OF ADULTS** 2020

The best-selling author of *My Brilliant Friend* presents the story of an Italian teen who searches for a sense of identity and clear perspectives when she finds herself torn between the refinements and excesses of a divided Naples. Generously donated by the **Who Picked This Book book club**.



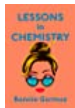
Gabrial, Marius **THE PARISIANS** 2019

Paris, 1940. The Nazis have occupied the city--and the Ritz. The opulent old hotel is now full of swaggering officers, their minions and their mistresses. For American Olivia Olsen, working as a chambermaid at the hotel means denying her nationality and living a lie, every day bringing the danger of discovery closer. When Hitler's right-hand man moves in and makes her his pet, she sees an opportunity to help the Resistance--and draw closer to Jack, her contact. Within the hotel, famed designer Coco Chanel quickly learns that the new regime could work to her benefit, while Arletty, one of France's best-loved actresses, shocks those around her--and herself--with a forbidden love. But as the war reaches its terrible end, all three women learn the true price of their proximity to the enemy. Generously donated by the **Book Babes**.



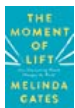
Gaffigan, Jeannie **WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU PEARS** 2019

The wife of acclaimed comic Jim Gaffigan shares an uplifting account of her fight to survive a brain tumor, the toll its treatment took on her family and the lessons she learned along the way. Nonfiction. Generously donated by **MBC Book Club**.



Garmus, Bonnie **LESSONS IN CHEMISTRY** 2022

In the early 1960s, chemist and single mother Elizabeth Zott, the reluctant star of America's most beloved cooking show due to her revolutionary skills in the kitchen, uses this opportunity to dare women to change the status quo.

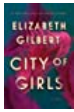


Gates, Melinda **THE MOMENT OF LIFT** 2019

A timely call to action for women's empowerment identifies the link between women's equality and societal health, sharing insights by international advocates in the fight against gender bias. Nonfiction. Generously donated by **Babes with Big Books**.



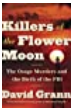
George, Jessica **MAAME** 2023  
A young British Ghanaian woman navigates her 20s and finds her place in the world.



Gilbert, Elizabeth **CITY OF GIRLS** 2019  
Set in the theatre world of 1940s New York, a young woman discovers that she does not have to be a "good girl" in order to be a good person. Generously donated by **Pagewiners Book Club**.



Gonzalez, Xochitl **OLGA DIES DREAMING** 2022  
In the wake of Hurricane Maria, Olga, the tony wedding planner for Manhattan's power brokers, must confront the effects of long-held family secrets when she falls in love with Matteo, while other family members must weather their own storms. Generously donated by **PageWiners Book Club**.



Grann, David **KILLERS OF THE FLOWER MOON** 2017  
In 1920s Oklahoma, many members of the oil-wealthy Osage Nation were dying untimely and suspicious deaths, and investigating these crimes led to the establishment of what is now known as the FBI. Nonfiction.



\*Grann, David **THE WAGER** 2023  
In this tale of shipwreck, survival and savagery, the #1 New York Times best-selling author of Killers of the Flower Moon recounts the events on His Majesty's Ship The Wager, a British vessel that left England in 1740 on a secret mission, resulting in a court martial that revealed a shocking truth. Generously donated by **Book Marques Book Club**.



Griffiths, Elly **BLEEDING HEART YARD** 2022  
Twenty years after she and her friends killed a fellow student, Cassie Fitzgerald is working as a police officer and must investigate her former classmates for what seems to be another very recent murder.



Gyasi, Yaa **TRANSCENDENT KINGDOM** 2020  
A follow-up to the best-selling Homegoing finds a sixth-year PhD candidate grappling with the childhood faith of the evangelical church in which she was raised while researching the science behind the suffering that has devastated her Ghanaian immigrant family.



Haig, Matt **THE MIDNIGHT LIBRARY** 2020  
Nora Seed finds herself faced with the possibility of changing her life for a new one: following a different career, undoing old breakups, or realizing her dreams of becoming a glaciologist. She must search within herself as she travels through the Midnight Library to decide what is truly fulfilling in life, and what makes it worth living in the first place.



Hannah, Kristin **THE FOUR WINDS** 2021  
A Depression-era woman confronts a wrenching choice between fighting for the Dust Bowl-ravaged land she loves in Texas or pursuing an uncertain future in California.



Harmel, Kristin **THE BOOK OF LOST NAMES** 2020  
Escaping from Paris in 1942 after the arrest of her father, a Polish Jew, a graduate student finds refuge in a small mountain town, where she forges identity documents to help hundreds of Jewish children flee the Nazis. Generously donated by **Washington School Book Group**.



Harper, Jane **THE LOST MAN** 2019  
Meeting at the remote fence line separating their cattle ranches on an isolated belt of the Australian outback, two brothers navigate the haunting realities of the isolation that ended their third brother's life.



Heiny, Katherine **EARLY MORNING RISER** 2021  
A wise, bighearted, boundlessly joyful novel of love, disaster, and unconventional family.



Heller, Miranda Cowley **THE PAPER PALACE** 2021  
While staying at "The Paper Palace" — the family summer place she has visited every summer of her life, 50-year-old Elle must decide between the life she has built with her husband and the life she always imagined she would have had with her childhood love.



Hirihara, Naomi **CLARK AND DIVISION** 2021

Released from a Japanese internment camp in 1944, Aki Ito moves to Chicago to be with her sister, Rose, only to lose her in a subway train accident on the event of their reunion and then vows to learn what really happened.



Hobson, Brandon **THE REMOVED** 2021

Steeped in Cherokee myths and history, a novel about a fractured family reckoning with the tragic death of their son long ago. Drawing deeply on Cherokee folklore, The Removed seamlessly blends the real and spiritual to excavate the deep reverberations of trauma—a meditation on family, grief, home, and the power of stories on both a personal and ancestral level.



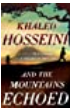
Honeyman, Gail **ELEANOR OLIPHANT IS COMPLETELY FINE** 2017

Office worker Eleanor adheres to a strict routine that has insulated her from the memories of her traumatic childhood but has not shielded her from loneliness. But after she meets Raymond, she attempts to rediscover her memories and in the process learns how relationships operate and that other people can be a source of joy rather than destruction.



Hoover, Colleen **IT ENDS WITH US** 2016

Falling for a stubborn but sensitive neurosurgeon after a youth spent working hard to earn an education and start her own business, Lily is frustrated by his aversion to commitment before reconnecting with a first love from the past she left behind.



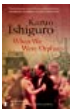
Hosseini, Khaled **AND THE MOUNTAINS ECHOED** 2013

A novel about how people love, how they take care of each other, and how choices made today can resonate through future generations. Author Khaled Hosseini gives readers a multi-generational family story revolving around siblings and how they love, betray, hurt, honor, and would do anything for one another.



Huynh, Carolyn **THE FORTUNES OF JADED WOMEN** 2022

A family of estranged Vietnamese women, who are cursed to never know love or happiness, reunite when a psychic makes a startling prediction.



Ishiguro, Kazuo **WHEN WE WERE ORPHANS** 2001

Christopher Banks, an English boy born in early-20th-century Shanghai, is orphaned at age nine when both his mother and father disappear under suspicious circumstances. He grows up to become a renowned detective, and more than 20 years later, returns to Shanghai to solve the mystery of their disappearances. Generously donated by the **Literary Luminaries Book Club**.



Jiles, Paulette **NEWS OF THE WORLD** 2016

In the wake of the Civil War, Captain Jefferson Kyle Kidd travels through northern Texas to deliver a young orphan to her relatives in San Antonio. Their 400-mile journey south through unsettled territory and unforgiving terrain proves difficult and at times dangerous. Yet as the miles pass, the two lonely survivors tentatively begin to trust each other, forming a bond that marks the difference between life and death in this treacherous land.



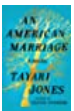
Johnson, Julia Claiborne **BE FRANK WITH ME** 2016

Meet Frank. Frank is an odd 9-year-old boy who has a higher IQ than Einstein's and dresses as if he were on a movie set in the early 1920s—and he is someone with whom you are sure to fall in love. Frank's reclusive mother is an author whose publisher has just sent Alice Whitley to serve as an assistant and ensure the next book is completed.



Johnson, Kirk Wallace **THE FEATHER THIEF** 2018

Documents the astonishing 2009 theft of an invaluable collection of ornithological displays from the British Museum of Natural History and tracing the author's years-long investigation to track down the culprit and understand his motives, which were possibly linked to an obsession with the Victorian art of salmon fly-tying. Nonfiction.



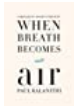
Jones, Tayari **AN AMERICAN MARRIAGE** 2018

Celestial and Roy are newly married professionals leaning in to a bright future when Roy is convicted of a crime he did not commit. This is not a heroes vs. villains tale with a tidy resolution. It is a complicated, messy, moving, and thought-provoking story about love, family, and the wide-reaching effects of incarceration.



Joyce, Rachel **MISS BENSON'S BEETLE** 2020

Leaving London behind, Margery Benson, a schoolmarm and spinster in 1950, embarks on a quest to the other side of the world in search of her childhood obsession – the golden beetle of New Caledonia – with the help of a fun-loving assistant who changes her life forever. Generously donated by the **Happy Bookers Book Club**.



Kalanithi, Paul **WHEN BREATH BECOMES AIR** 2016

A profoundly moving, exquisitely observed memoir by a young neurosurgeon faced with a terminal cancer diagnosis who attempts to answer the question. What makes a life worth living? At the age of thirty-six, on the verge of completing a decade's worth of training as a neurosurgeon, Paul Kalanithi was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer. One day he was a doctor treating the dying, and the next he was a patient struggling to live. And just like that, the future he and his wife had imagined evaporated. Nonfiction. Generously donated by **Babes with Big Books Book Club**.



Keane, Mary Beth **ASK AGAIN, YES** 2019

A family saga about two Irish American families in a New York suburb, the love between two of their children, and the tragedies that threaten to tear them apart and destroy their futures.



\*Keegan, Claire **FOSTER** 2022

An Irish child taken by her father to live with relatives on a farm finds the love and affection she never knew before and begins to thrive. Generously donated by the **Uptown Girls Book Club**.



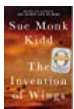
Kelly, Martha Hall **LILAC GIRLS** 2016

The lives of three women converge at the Ravensbrück concentration camp as one resolves to help from her post at the French consulate, one becomes a courier in the Polish resistance, and one takes a German government medical position. Generously donated by **Once a Quarter Book Club**.



Kelly, Martha Hall **SUNFLOWER SISTERS** 2021

Union nurse Georgeanna Woolsey, an ancestor of Caroline Ferriday, travels with her sister to Gettysburg, where they cross paths with a slave-turned-army conscript and her cruel plantation mistress. Generously donated by **Century Readers**.



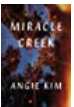
Kidd, Sue Monk **THE INVENTION OF WINGS** 2014

The story follows Hetty "Handful" Grimke, a Charleston slave, and Sarah, the daughter of the wealthy Grimke family. The novel begins on Sarah's eleventh birthday, when she is given ownership over Handful, who is to be her handmaid, and continues for the next thirty-five years of their lives. Inspired in part by the historical figure of Sarah Grimke, a feminist, suffragist and an abolitionist. Generously donated by **The Friends of the Park Ridge Library**.



\*Kim, Angie **HAPPINESS FALLS** 2023

When her father goes missing and the only witness is her younger brother Eugene who has Angelman syndrome and cannot speak, Mia finds their desperate search calling everything they know about him and themselves into question—and that the most personal secrets may be at the heart of his disappearance. Generously donated by **BTW Book Club**.



Kim, Angie **MIRACLE CREEK** 2019

A dramatic murder trial in the aftermath of an experimental medical treatment and a fatal explosion upends a rural Virginia community where personal secrets and private ambitions complicate efforts to uncover what happened.



Kimmerer, Robin Wall **BRAIDING SWEETGRASS** 2013

As a botanist, Robin Wall Kimmerer has been trained to ask questions of nature with the tools of science. As a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, she embraces the notion that plants and animals are our oldest teachers. In Braiding Sweetgrass, Kimmerer brings these two lenses of knowledge together to take us on 'a journey that is every bit as mythic as it is scientific, as sacred as it is historical, as clever as it is wise'. Nonfiction. Generously donated by **Hodges Park Book Club**.



\*Kingsolver, Barbara **DEMON COPPERHEAD** 2022

The son of an Appalachian teenager uses his good looks, wit and instincts to survive foster care, child labor, addiction, disastrous loves, and crushing losses in the new novel from the best-selling author of Unsheltered. Generously donated by **MBC Book Club**.



Kline, Christina Baker **THE EXILES** 2020

Sent to a Tasmanian penal colony after conceiving her employer's grandchild, a young governess befriends a talented midwife and an orphaned Aboriginal chief's daughter while confronting the harsh realities of British colonialism and oppression in 19th-century Australia.



Klune, T.J. **THE HOUSE IN THE CERULEAN SEA** 2020

Given a curious classified assignment to evaluate the potential risks posed by six supernatural orphans, a case worker at the Department in Charge of Magical Youth bonds with an enigmatic caregiver who hides dangerous secrets.



Ko, Lisa **THE LEAVERS** 2017

One morning, Deming Guo's mother, an undocumented Chinese immigrant named Polly, goes to her job at the nail salon and never comes home. With his mother gone, eleven-year-old Deming is left with no one to care for him. He is eventually adopted by two white college professors who move him from the Bronx to a small town upstate.



Kurson, Robert **ROCKET MEN** 2018

The inside story of mankind's historic first mission to the Moon, a tale of bravery and sacrifice by three legendary astronauts, and a journey that forever changed our understanding of our place in the universe. Nonfiction. Generously donated by **The Pickwickers Book Club**.



Larson, Erik **THE SPLENDID AND THE VILE** 2020

The best-selling author of Dead Wake draws on personal diaries, archival documents and declassified intelligence in a portrait of Winston Churchill that explores his day-to-day experiences during the Blitz and his role in uniting England. Nonfiction. Generously donated by **MBC Book Club**.



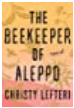
\*Lawhon, Ariel **THE FROZEN RIVER** 2023

In 1789 Maine, midwife and healer Martha Ballard investigates a shocking murder linked to an alleged rape that has shaken her small town, especially when her diary lands at the center of the scandal, threatening to tear both her family and her community apart. Generously donated by the **Uptown Girls Book Club**.



Lee, Min Jin **PACHINKO** 2017

Pachinko follows one Korean family through the generations, beginning in early 1900s Korea with Sunja, the prized daughter of a poor yet proud family, whose unplanned pregnancy threatens to shame them all. Deserted by her lover, Sunja is saved when a young tubercular minister offers to marry and bring her to Japan. So begins a sweeping saga of an exceptional family in exile from its homeland and caught in the indifferent arc of history.



Lefteri, Christy **THE BEEKEEPER OF ALEPPO** 2019

A beekeeper and his artist wife have their lives upended and must flee after war destroys their home in Aleppo, Syria, and they set off on a dangerous journey through Turkey and Greece, towards an uncertain future in England. Moving, powerful, compassionate, and beautifully written, The Beekeeper of Aleppo is a testament to the triumph of the human spirit.



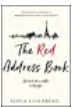
Lockhart, E.L. **WE WERE LIARS** 2014

Spending the summers on her family's private island off the coast of Massachusetts with her cousins and a special boy named Gat, teenager Cadence struggles to remember what happened during her fifteenth summer. Generously donated by **The Friends of the Park Ridge Library**.



Lombardo, Claire **THE MOST FUN WE EVER HAD** 2019

The four adult daughters of two Chicago parents who have been madly in love for decades recklessly ignite old rivalries, until a long-buried secret threatens to shatter the lives they built.



Lundberg, Sofia **THE RED ADDRESS BOOK** 2019

Living alone in her Stockholm apartment, a 96-year-old woman reminisces through the pages of a long-kept address book before starting to write down stories from her past, unlocking family secrets in unexpectedly beneficial ways. Generously donated by **The 20th Century Club Book Marques in memory of Martha Campbell**.



McFarlane, Mhairi **MAD ABOUT YOU** 2022

After turning down a proposal from her long-time partner, in-demand wedding photographer Harriet Hatley moves in with a new roommate who makes her question everything about her life and her past when her heavily guarded secret comes to light.



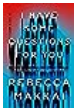
MacKinnon, J.B. **THE DAY THE WORLD STOPS SHOPPING** 2021

An award-winning journalist examines the effects of consumerism on the planet, looking towards a world without shopping and how it could help reduce carbon emissions and lead us to a closer relationship with our natural world and each other. Nonfiction.

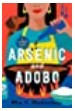


Makkai, Rebecca **THE GREAT BELIEVERS** 2018

A novel set in 1980s Chicago and contemporary Paris follows the director of a Chicago art gallery and a woman looking for her estranged daughter in Paris who both struggle to come to terms with the ways AIDS has affected their lives.



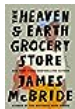
Makkai, Rebecca **I HAVE SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU** 2023  
A woman must reckon with her past when new details surface about a tragedy at her elite New England boarding school.



Manansala, Mia P. **ARSENIC AND ADOBO** 2021  
Returning home to help save her Tita Rosie's failing restaurant, Lila Macapagal is shocked when her ex-boyfriend, a notoriously nasty food critic, dies suddenly, moments after they had a confrontation, leaving her the only suspect.



Mandel, Emily St. John **THE GLASS HOTEL** 2020  
A massive Ponzi scheme is tied to a woman's disappearance at sea, in a tale of crisis and survival in the hidden landscapes of homeless campgrounds, luxury hotels, private clubs, and federal prisons.



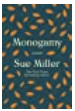
\*McBride, James **THE HEAVEN AND EARTH GROCERY STORE** 2023  
When a skeleton is unearthed in the small, close-knit community of Chicken Hill, Pennsylvania in 1972, an unforgettable cast of characters living on the margins of white, Christian America closely guard a secret, especially when the truth is revealed about what happened and the part the town's white establishment played in it. Generously donated by the **Uptown Girls Book Club**.



\*McDermott, Alice **ABSOLUTION** 2023  
A riveting account of women's lives on the margins of the Vietnam War, from the renowned winner of the National Book Award. Generously donated by the **Uptown Girls Book Club**.



Miller, Madeline **CIRCE** 2018  
In the house of Helios, god of the sun and mightiest of the Titans, a daughter is born. But Circe is a strange child, not powerful, like her father, nor viciously alluring like her mother. Threatened, Zeus banishes her to a deserted island, where she hones her occult craft, tames wild beasts and crosses paths with many of the most famous figures in all of mythology.



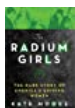
Miller, Sue **MONOGAMY** 2020  
Derailed by the sudden passing of her husband of thirty years, an artist on the brink of a gallery opening struggles to pick up the pieces of her life before discovering harrowing evidence of her husband's affair.



Mirza, Fatima Farheen **A PLACE FOR US** 2018  
As an Indian wedding gathers a family back together, parents Rafiq and Layla must reckon with the choices their children have made. A Place for Us takes us back to the beginning of this family's life: from the bonds that hold them together to the differences that pull them apart. All the joy and struggle of family life are here, from Rafiq and Layla's own arrival in America from India, to the years in which their children -- each in his or her own way -- tread between two cultures, seeking to find their place in the world, as well as a path home.



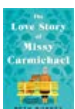
Mitchard, Jacquelyn **THE GOOD SON** 2022  
When her son is released from prison after serving time for the negligent homicide of his girlfriend, Thea is committed to helping him make amends until attempts on their lives are made, leading her to believe that those who are threatening them have something to hide. Generously donated by **Sue's Crew in honor of Sue Cascio**.



Moore, Kate **RADIUM GIRLS** 2017  
This is the story of hundreds of young, vibrant women who were sentenced to death by their employers. The so-called "Radium Girls" painted luminescent faces on clock and watch dials using a paint mixture that contained radium. Instructed to "lip-point" their brushes as they painted, they absorbed high doses of radium into their bodies. When the effects of the radium led to horrific disfigurement and pain, the company refused to take responsibility. Nonfiction. Generously donated by **The Friends of the Park Ridge Library**.



Moriarty, Liane **APPLES NEVER FALL** 2021  
The four Delaney children start to reexamine their shared family history in a new light when their mother disappears along with a stranger named Savannah who needed their help, and their father, who claims to be innocent, has a lot to hide. Generously donated by **Babes With Big Books**.



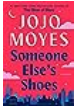
Morrey, Beth **THE LOVE STORY OF MISSY CARMICHAEL** 2020  
Reevaluating her past upon finding herself alone at age 79, Missy forges unexpected ties with two strangers and their spirited dog, discovering the power of friendship, family and self-forgiveness along the way. Generously donated by **Sue's Crew in memory of Suzanne Walley Cascio**.





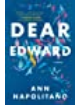
Mott, Jason **HELL OF A BOOK** 2021

An African-American author sets out on a cross-country book tour to promote his bestselling novel. That storyline drives Jason Mott's novel and is the scaffolding of something much larger and more urgent: since his novel also tells the story of Soot, a young Black boy living in a rural town in the recent past, and The Kid, a possibly imaginary child who appears to the author on his tour. Generously donated by the **MBC Book Club**.



\*Moyes, Jojo **SOMEONE ELSE'S SHOES** 2023

When she accidentally takes the wrong gym bag, Sam Kemp tries on a pair of six-inch high Christian Louboutin red crocodile shoes that give her the confidence to change her life, while the shoes' owner tries to cling to her glamorous life after her husband cuts her off.



Napolitano, Ann **DEAR EDWARD** 2020

A twelve-year-old lone survivor of a plane crash investigates the stories of his less-fortunate fellow passengers before making a profound discovery about his life purpose in the face of transcendent losses.



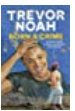
Napolitano, Ann **HELLO BEAUTIFUL** 2023

Awarded a college basketball scholarship away from his childhood home silenced by tragedy, a young man befriends a spirited young woman who welcomes him into her loving, loud, chaotic household. Generously donated by the **PageWiners Book Club**.



Ng, Celeste **OUR MISSING HEARTS** 2022

In a society consumed by fear, twelve-year-old Bird Gardner, after receiving a mysterious letter, sets out on a quest to find his mother, a Chinese-American poet who left when he was nine years old, leading him to New York City, where a new act of defiance may be the beginning of much-needed change.



Noah, Trevor **BORN A CRIME** 2016

The compelling, inspiring, and comically sublime story of one man's coming-of-age, set during the twilight of apartheid and the tumultuous days of freedom that followed. Trevor Noah's unlikely path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of The Daily Show began with a criminal act: his birth. His stories weave together to form a moving and searingly funny portrait of a boy making his way through a damaged world in a dangerous time, armed only with a keen sense of humor and a mother's unconventional, unconditional love. Nonfiction.



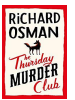
Obama, Michelle **BECOMING** 2018

An intimate, powerful, and inspiring memoir by the former First Lady of the United States. In a life filled with meaning and accomplishment, Michelle Obama has emerged as one of the most iconic and compelling women of our era. As First Lady of the United States of America, she helped create the most welcoming and inclusive White House in history. With unerring honesty and lively wit, she describes her triumphs and her disappointments, both public and private. Nonfiction.



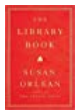
O'Farrell, Maggie **HAMNET** 2020

The award-winning author of I Am, I Am, I Am presents the evocative story of a young Shakespeare's marriage to a talented herbalist before the ravaging death of their 11-year-old son shapes the production of his greatest play.



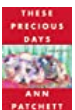
Osman, Richard **THURSDAY MURDER CLUB** 2020

In a peaceful retirement village, four unlikely friends meet weekly in the Jigsaw Room to discuss unsolved crimes; together they call themselves The Thursday Murder Club. Elizabeth, Joyce, Ibrahim and Ron might be pushing eighty but they still have a few tricks up their sleeves.



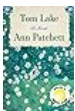
Orlean, Susan **THE LIBRARY BOOK** 2018

The acclaimed best-selling author of Rin Tin Tin and The Orchid Thief reopens the unsolved mystery of the most catastrophic library fire in American history, and delivers a dazzling love letter to a beloved institution—our libraries. Nonfiction.



Patchett, Ann **THESE PRECIOUS DAYS** 2021

The beloved New York Times bestselling author reflects on home, family, friendships and writing in this deeply personal collection of essays. Infused with the author's grace, wit, and warmth, the pieces in *These Precious Days* resonate deep in the soul, leaving an indelible mark—and demonstrate why Ann Patchett is one of the most celebrated writers of our time. Nonfiction.

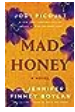


\*Patchett, Ann **TOM LAKE** 2023

In the spring of 2020, Lara's three daughters return to the family's orchard in Northern Michigan. While picking cherries, they beg their mother to tell them the story of Peter Duke, a famous actor with whom she shared both a stage and a romance years before at a theater company called Tom Lake. As Lara recalls the past, her daughters examine their own lives and relationship with their mother, and are forced to reconsider the world and everything they thought they knew. Generously donated by **Washington School Book Group**.



Penner, Sarah **THE LOST APOTHECARY** 2021  
 Secretly dispensing poisons to liberate women from the men who have wronged them, a London apothecary triggers unintended consequences that shape three lives across multiple centuries.



Picoult, Jodi **MAD HONEY** 2022  
 Olivia McAfee knows what it feels like to start over. She never imagined she would end up back in her New Hampshire hometown, taking over her father's beekeeping business. Lily Campanello is familiar with do-overs, too. When she and her mom relocate to Adams, New Hampshire, for her final year of high school, they both hope it will be a fresh start. And for just a short while, these new beginnings are exactly what Olivia and Lily need.



Picoult, Jodi **SMALL GREAT THINGS** 2016  
 Hesitating to treat the newborn of a white supremacist couple who has demanded that a white nurse assist them, a black nurse is placed on trial in the tragic aftermath and is aided by a white public defender with whom she begins questioning their beliefs as the case becomes more racially charged.



Pooley, Clare **IONA IVERSON'S RULES FOR COMMUTING** 2022  
 An advice columnist breaks her rule for never talking to other commuters on the train when she witnesses a nurse save another man choking on a grape.



Prescott, Lara **THE SECRETS WE KEPT** 2019  
 A thrilling tale of secretaries turned spies, of love and duty, and of sacrifice--inspired by the true story of the CIA plot to infiltrate the hearts and minds of Soviet Russia, not with propaganda, but with the greatest love story of the twentieth century: Doctor Zhivago.



Purnell, Sonia **A WOMAN OF NO IMPORTANCE** 2019  
 Traces the story of mid-twentieth-century spy Virginia Hall, detailing her pivotal role in coordinating Resistance activities in Europe that helped change the course of World War II. Generously donated by the **Tattered Readers**.



Quinn, Joanna **THE WHALEBONE THEATRE** 2022  
 In 1928, 12-year-old orphan Cristabel Seagrave and the rest of the household build a theatre from a whale's skeletal rib cage, where imagination comes to life. Her acting comes into play years later as she becomes a British secret agent on a dangerous mission in Nazi-occupied France.



Quinn, Kate **THE ALICE NETWORK** 2017  
 A female spy recruited to the real-life Alice Network in France during World War I and an unconventional American socialite searching for her cousin in 1947 are brought together in a story of courage and redemption. Generously donated by the **Pagewinners Book Club**.



Reid, Kiley **SUCH A FUN AGE** 2019  
 A story about race and privilege, set around a young black babysitter, her well-intentioned employer, and a surprising connection that threatens to undo them both.



Reid, Taylor Jenkins **THE SEVEN HUSBANDS OF EVELYN HUGO** 2017  
 Aging and reclusive Hollywood movie icon Evelyn Hugo is finally ready to tell the truth about her glamorous and scandalous life. But when she chooses unknown magazine reporter Monique Grant for the job, no one in the journalism community is more astounded than Monique herself. Summoned to Evelyn's Upper East Side apartment, Monique listens as Evelyn unfurls her story: from making her way to Los Angeles in the 1950s to her decision to leave show business in the late 80s, and, of course, the seven husbands along the way.



Richardson, Kim Michele **THE BOOK WOMAN OF TROUBLESOME CREEK** 2019  
 A last-of-her-kind outcast and member of the Pack Horse Library Project braves the hardships of Kentucky's Great Depression and hostile community discrimination to bring the near-magical perspectives of books to her neighbors.



Rooney, Kathleen **LILLIAN BOXFISH TAKES A WALK** 2017  
 Embarking on a walk across Manhattan on New Year's Eve in 1984, eighty-five-year-old Lillian Boxfish recalls her long and eventful life, which included a brief reign as the highest-paid advertising woman in America, whose career was cut short by marriage and loss.

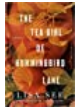


\*Rose, M.J. **THE JEWELER OF STOLEN DREAMS** 2023  
 A captivating tale of two passionate women separated by decades but united by a shared vision. One, the famous jeweler Suzanne Belperron, fighting to protect her company and rescue the man she loves. The other, a young auctioneer whose exceptional gifts reveal a secret that endangers her very life. Generously donated by **The Book Babes**.



Rutledge, Lynda **WEST WITH GIRAFFES** 2021

Inspired by true events, this part adventure, part historical saga and part coming-of-age love story follows Woodrow Wilson Nickel as he recalls his journey in 1938 to deliver Southern California's first giraffes to the San Diego Zoo.



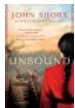
See, Lisa **THE TEA GIRL OF HUMMINGBIRD LANE** 2017

Li-Yan and her family, devote their lives to farming tea. Like her mother, Li-Yan is being groomed to become a midwife in her Chinese village. She yearns for more and is allowed to pursue her schooling. The arrival of outsiders seeking the Pu'er tea of Yunnan brings the modern world into this isolated village. When Li-Yan finds herself alone and pregnant, she leaves her child, wrapped with a tea cake, at an orphanage. Her daughter is adopted by a couple from California, but she is drawn to the study of tea.



Shapiro, Dani **INHERITANCE** 2019

The acclaimed author of Hourglass describes her staggering recent discovery that she is not biologically related to her father, tracing her efforts to uncover the truth from a half-century web of family secrets to reestablish her sense of identity. Nonfiction.



Shors, John **UNBOUND** 2018

The year is 1548 and the Chinese Empire faces an imminent Mongol invasion. All that prevents the violent end of a dynasty is the Great Wall. Fan has been missing for a year when his wife, Meng, decides to do the impossible, to leave everyone and everything she knows in a daunting effort to find him. At a time when many women fear even stepping outside their homes, Meng disguises herself as a man and begins a perilous journey of deliverance. Generously donated by **The Pagewinners Book Club**.



Smith, William Gardner **THE STONE FACE** 1963

First published in 1963, The Stone Face tells the tale of a young African-American man who takes refuge from American racism in France, only to find himself complicit in a racist order of another sort. Generously donated by **Hodges Park Book Club**.



Spiegelman, Art **MAUS** 1986

Maus recounts the chilling experiences of the author's father during the Holocaust, with Jews drawn as wide-eyed mice and Nazis as menacing cats.



Stevenson, Bryan **JUST MERCY** 2014

The founder of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama recounts his experiences as a lawyer working to assist those desperately in need, reflecting on his pursuit of the ideal of compassion in American justice. Nonfiction.



Stradal, J. Ryan **THE LAGER QUEEN OF MINNESOTA** 2019

A talented baker running a business out of her nursing home reconnects with her master brewer sister at the same time that her pregnant granddaughter launches an IPA brewpub. Generously donated by **Babes with Big Books Book Club**.



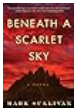
Straub, Emma **ALL ADULTS HERE** 2020

A matriarch confronts the legacy of her parenting mistakes while her adult children navigate respective challenges in high standards and immaturity, before a teen granddaughter makes a courageous decision to tell the truth.



Strout, Elizabeth **OLIVE, AGAIN** 2019

A sequel to Olive Kitteridge finds Olive struggling to understand herself while bonding with a teen suffering from loss, a woman who gives birth unexpectedly, a nurse harboring a longtime crush and a lawyer who resists an unwanted inheritance.



Sullivan, Mark **BENEATH A SCARLET SKY** 2017

In 1940s Italy, teenager Pino Lella joins an underground railroad helping Jews escape over the Alps and falls for a beautiful widow, he also becomes the personal driver of one of the Third Reich's most powerful commanders.



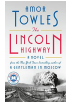
Sweeney, Cynthia D'Apris **GOOD COMPANY** 2021

In this bighearted story of the lifelong relationships that both wound and heal us, Flora Mancini finds everything she thought she knew about her husband, her marriage and her relationship with her best friend upended when she makes a startling discovery.



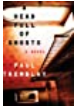
Tóibín, Colm **BROOKLYN** 2009

Eilis Lacey is unable to find a job in Ireland in the years following World War II. An Irish priest from Brooklyn, New York offers to sponsor her to live and work in America, so she decides she must go leaving her mother and sister behind. She adapts to her new life by working in a department store and the pain of parting has subsided until she receives devastating news from home that threatens the promise of her future. Generously donated by **The Friends of the Park Ridge Library**.



Towles, Amor **THE LINCOLN HIGHWAY** 2021

In June, 1954, eighteen-year-old Emmett Watson is driven home to Nebraska by the warden of the work farm where he has just served a year for involuntary manslaughter. But when the warden drives away, Emmett discovers that two friends from the work farm have hidden themselves in the trunk of the warden's car. Together, they have hatched an altogether different plan for Emmett's future. Generously donated by the **Pagewinners Book Club**.



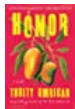
Tremblay, Paul **A HEAD FULL OF GHOSTS** 2015

The lives of the Barretts are torn apart when 14-year-old Marjorie begins to display signs of what at first seems to be acute schizophrenia, a condition which only gets worse and leads them to believe it's actually demonic possession, as they become the center of a reality TV show.



Tyler, Anne **A SPOOL OF BLUE THREAD** 2015

The Whitshanks are one of those families that radiate togetherness, but they are also like all families, in that the stories they tell themselves reveal only part of the picture. Abby and Red and their four grown children have accumulated not only tender moments, laughter, and celebrations, but also jealousies, disappointments, and carefully guarded secrets.



Umrigar, Thrity **HONOR** 2022

An Indian American journalist returns home to cover the story of a Hindi woman attacked by her own family for marrying a Muslim and deals with a society that places more weight on tradition than one's heart.



Van Pelt, Shelby **REMARKABLY BRIGHT CREATURES** 2022

For fans of *A Man Called Ove*, a luminous debut novel about a widow's unlikely friendship with a giant Pacific octopus reluctantly residing at the local aquarium- and the truths she finally uncovers about her son's disappearance 30 years ago.



Wallace, Chris and Mitch Weiss **COUNTDOWN 1945** 2020

A Fox News Sunday anchor and a Pulitzer Prize-winning AP investigative journalist present a behind-the-scenes account of the secret meetings, global events, leadership decisions, and civilian realities that led to the Hiroshima bombing. Nonfiction. Generously donated by the **Pickwickers Book Club**.



Weiner, Jennifer **MRS. EVERYTHING** 2019

Two sisters struggle to find their place, be true to themselves and adapt to rapid changes happening throughout the latter half of 20th-century America.



Wetmore, Elizabeth **VALENTINE** 2020

An astonishing debut novel that explores the lingering effects of a brutal crime on the women of one small Texas oil town in the 1970s.



Whitehead, Colson **THE NICKEL BOYS** 2019

A follow-up to the Pulitzer Prize- and National Book Award-winning, *The Underground Railroad*, follows the harrowing experiences of two African-American teens at an abusive reform school in Jim Crow-era Florida. Generously donated by **Who Picked This Book Book Club**.



Whitehead, Colson **THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD** 2015

Cora is a slave on a cotton plantation in Georgia. When Caesar, a recent arrival from Virginia, tells her about the Underground Railroad, they decide to take a terrifying risk and escape. Though they manage to find a station and head north, they are being hunted. Their first stop is South Carolina, in a city that initially seems like a haven. But the city's placid surface masks an insidious scheme designed for its black denizens. And even worse: Ridgeway, the relentless slave catcher, is close on their heels. Generously donated by **The Friends of the Park Ridge Library**.



Wilkerson, Charmaine **BLACK CAKE** 2022

Two estranged siblings try to reclaim the closeness they once shared while trying to piece together their late mother's life story and fulfill her last request of sharing a traditional Caribbean black cake when the time is right.



Wilkerson, Isabel **CASTE** 2020

The Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Warmth of Other Suns* identifies the qualifying characteristics of historical caste systems to reveal how a rigid hierarchy of human rankings, enforced by religious views, heritage and stigma, impact everyday American lives. Nonfiction.



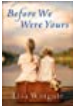
Williams, Pip **THE DICTIONARY OF LOST WORDS** 2020

Deciding to create her own dictionary — the Dictionary of Lost Words — Esme, who has collected “objectionable” words a team of male scholars omit from the first Oxford English Dictionary, leaves her sheltered world behind to meet the people whose words will fill those pages.



Wilson, Kevin **NOTHING TO SEE HERE** 2019

Agreeing to help her former roommate care for two stepchildren who possess the ability to spontaneously combust when agitated, Lillian endeavors to keep her young charges cool in the face of an astonishing revelation.



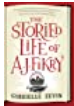
Wingate, Lisa **BEFORE WE WERE YOURS** 2017

Memphis, 1939. Twelve-year-old Rill Foss and her four younger siblings live a magical life aboard their family's Mississippi River shantyboat. But when their father must rush their mother to the hospital one stormy night, Rill is left in charge, until strangers arrive in force. Wrenched from all that is familiar and thrown into a Tennessee Children's Home Society orphanage, the Foss children are assured that they will soon be returned to their parents but they quickly realize the dark truth. Generously donated by **MBC Book Club**.



Zauner, Michelle **CRYING IN H MART** 2021

The Japanese Breakfast indie pop star presents a full-length account of her viral New Yorker essay to share poignant reflections on her experiences of growing up Korean-American, becoming a professional musician and caring for her terminally ill mother. Nonfiction.



Zevin, Gabrielle **THE STORIED LIFE OF A. J. FIKRY** 2014

A middle-aged bookseller mourning his lost wife, a feisty publisher's rep, and a charmingly precocious abandoned child come together on a small island off the New England coast in this utterly delightful novel of love and second chances.



\*Zigman, Laura **SMALL WORLD** 2023

Inviting her older Lydia, who is also divorced, to live with her until she finds a place of her own, Joyce finds their relationship fraying as new revelations from their family's history come to light, forcing them to finally reckon with their childhood. Generously donated by the **Uptown Girls Book Club**.

*Last updated February 2024*

*\*New discussion set*