



# Thursday Evening Book Discussions 2020-21 Nevins Memorial Library



Book discussions will be held live on ZOOM on Thursday evenings 7-9pm. Books are available approximately one month prior to the discussion. You may pick up books at the Main Desk any time the Library is open or call to make an arrangement for Curbside Pickup. Some books are available as downloadable e-books, or in Large Print or Audio. If you wish to join this Book Group, please visit the Library Events Calendar or the Book Groups page on the Library Website, and fill out a Book Group Registration form. Additional Book Discussion information is available on our website at [www.nevinslibrary.org](http://www.nevinslibrary.org). All books announced in this flyer are tentative, based on availability of multiple copies. To confirm dates, book selections, or for more information call the Library at 978-686-4080 ext. 10.

## **November 5th – Reading Round-Up!**

This year of pandemic and quarantine has, for some of us, been a year of compulsive reading. Some of us have needed light fiction, others have found new genres to interest us. Some have had trouble getting into books and are looking for inspiration. Wherever you are, join us for our annual book-review-fest of the books we read this year that we loved and hated! Be prepared to talk about at least one or two books you have read recently.

## **Seven Novels from Seven Continents**

While we may not be able to travel physically right now, we all know that books can take us far and wide! Let's visit the seven continents in fiction this year. These novels are not necessarily the only books with settings on these continents, nor are they necessarily even the best or most representative, but they are books we thought would make for good reading and lively discussion. Some of them travel between continents and time, but tell an essential story about a part of our world and those that inhabit it.

## **December 3<sup>rd</sup> – Africa: Little Bee by Chris Cleave**

A haunting novel about the tenuous friendship that blooms between two disparate strangers—one a Nigerian refugee, the other a widow from suburban London.

## **January 7<sup>th</sup> – Asia: Peony in Love by Lisa See**

This story is based on actual historical events, taking us back to seventeenth-century China, after the Manchus seize power and the Ming dynasty is crushed. Steeped in traditions and ritual, this story brings to life another time and place—even the intricate realm of the Chinese afterworld

## **February 4<sup>th</sup> – Antarctica: The Comet Seekers by Helen Sedgwick**

Róisín and François are immediately drawn to each other when they meet at a remote research base on the frozen ice sheets of Antarctica. At first glance, the pair could not be more different, yet tragedy and the longing for a fresh start, which they share, as well as an indelible but unknown bond that stretches back centuries, connect them to each other.

**March 4<sup>th</sup> – South America: In the Midst of Winter by Isabel Allende**

Worldwide bestselling “dazzling storyteller” Isabel Allende brings us a sweeping novel about three very different people who are brought together in a mesmerizing story that journeys from present-day Brooklyn to Guatemala in the recent past, to 1970s Chile and Brazil.

**April 1<sup>st</sup> – Europe: Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys**

Winter 1945. WWII. Four refugees. Four stories. Each one born of a different homeland; each one hunted, and haunted, by tragedy, lies, war. As thousands desperately flock to the coast in the midst of a Soviet advance, four paths converge, vying for passage aboard the *Wilhelm Gustloff*, a ship that promises safety and freedom. But not all promises can be kept . . .

**May 6<sup>th</sup> – North America: The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie**

Bestselling author Sherman Alexie tells the story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the reservation to attend an all-white high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.

**June 3<sup>rd</sup> – Australia: Big Little Lies by Liane Moriarty**

Fans of the HBO mini-series might be surprised to find out that this story was originally set in a suburb of Sydney, Australia. This domestic drama focuses on three women, all of whom have children at the same preschool. Right from the start--thanks to a modern “Greek chorus” that narrates the action--we know that someone is going to end up dead. Ultimately the most important message in this book is that we all tell lies, not only to friends and family, but most importantly, to ourselves.

*Nevins Memorial Library 305 Broadway Methuen, MA. 01844 978-686-4080*

