



GROWING COMMUNITY

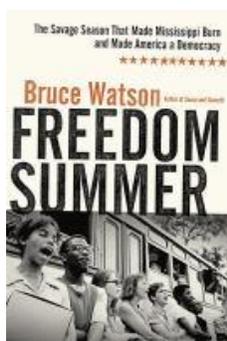
## Stranger Than Fiction Book Group 2020 – 2021

“Stranger than Fiction” is a book club specifically for those who enjoy reading non-fiction. We’ll read across all topics within non-fiction (e.g. Biographies, True Crime, Travelogues, etc.) Some months we’ll be discussing a single title, other months there will be a theme and a list of suggested books on that topic from which participants can choose.

The group meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7pm (barring holidays).

### September 14<sup>th</sup>: Reading Round-Up

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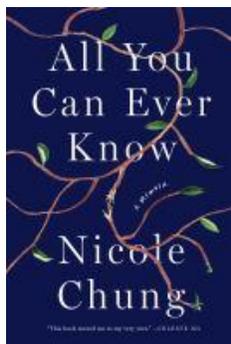
**October 19<sup>th</sup>\*: Freedom Summer: the savage summer that made Mississippi burn and made America a democracy** by Bruce Watson

In the summer of 1964, with the civil rights movement stalled, seven hundred college students descended on Mississippi to register black voters. But by the time their first night in the state had ended, three volunteers were dead, black churches had burned, and America had a new definition of freedom.

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**November 9<sup>th</sup>: Junk: digging through America's love affair with stuff** by Allison Stewart

When journalist and author Allison Stewart was confronted with emptying her late parents’ overloaded basement, a job that dragged on for months, it got her thinking: How did it come to this? Why do smart, successful people hold on to old Christmas bows, chipped knick-knacks, and books they would likely never reread? Junk details Stewart’s three-year investigation into America’s stuff, lots and lots and lots of stuff.

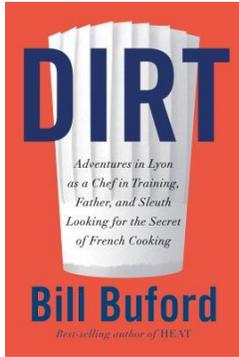


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**December 14<sup>th</sup>: All You Can Ever Know: a memoir** by Nicole Chung

Chung investigates the mysteries and complexities of her transracial adoption in this chronicle of unexpected family for anyone who has struggled to figure out where they belong.

***\*Change in date (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday) and meeting room due to holiday Monday and closed building.***



**January 11<sup>th</sup>: Dirt: adventures in Lyon as a chef in training, father, and sleuth looking for the secret of French cooking by Bill Buford**

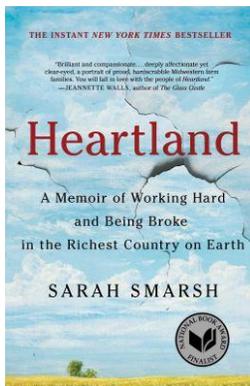
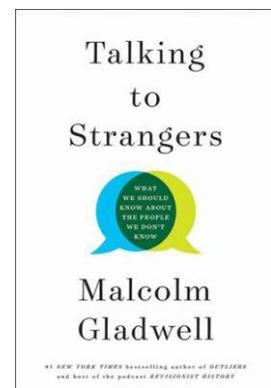
Baffled by the language, but convinced that he can master the art of French cooking--or at least get to the bottom of why it is so revered—[Bill Buford] begins what becomes a five-year odyssey by shadowing the esteemed French chef Michel Richard, in Washington, D.C. But when Buford (quickly) realizes that a stage in France is necessary, he goes--this time with his wife and three-year-old twin sons in tow--to Lyon, the gastronomic capital of

France.

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**February 8<sup>th</sup>: Talking to Strangers: what we should know about the people we don't know by Malcolm Gladwell**

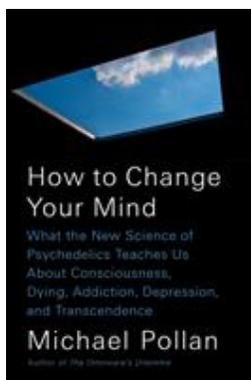
Talking to Strangers is a classically Gladwellian intellectual adventure, a challenging and controversial excursion through history, psychology, and scandals taken straight from the news. Something is very wrong, Gladwell argues, with the tools and strategies we use to make sense of people we don't know. And because we don't know how to talk to strangers, we are inviting conflict and misunderstanding in ways that have a profound effect on our lives and our world.



**March 8<sup>th</sup>: Heartland: a memoir of working hard and being broke in the richest country on Earth by Sarah Smarsh**

During Smarsh's turbulent childhood in Kansas in the '80s and '90s, the forces of cyclical poverty and the country's changing economic policies solidified her family's place among the working poor. Her personal history affirms the corrosive impact intergenerational poverty can have on individuals, families, and communities. Combining memoir with powerful analysis and cultural commentary, this is an uncompromising look at class, identity, and the particular perils of having less in a country known for its excess.

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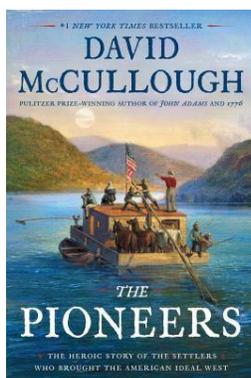
**April 12<sup>th</sup>: How to Change Your Mind: what the new science of psychedelics teaches us about consciousness, dying, addiction, depression, and transcendence by Michael Pollan**

The best-selling author of *The Omnivore's Dilemma* presents a groundbreaking investigation into the medical and scientific revolution currently taking place in the field of psychedelic drugs, drawing on a range of experiences to trace the criminalization of such substances as LSD and psychedelic mushrooms and how they may offer treatment options for difficult health challenges.

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**May 10<sup>th</sup>: I'll be Gone in the Dark: one woman's obsessive search for the Golden State Killer by Michelle McNamara**

An account of the unsolved Golden State Killer case, written by the late author of the TrueCrimeDiary.com website traces the rapes and murders of dozens of victims and the author's determined efforts to help identify the killer and bring him to justice.



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**June 14<sup>th</sup>: The Pioneers: the heroic story of the settlers who brought the American ideal west by David McCullough**

Best-selling author David McCullough chronicles the lesser-known settling of the Northwest Territory by dauntless pioneers whose community ideals shaped a fledgling America.