

## Recommended Reading List by SWC Book Club Members

9/2/2020

<u>Book Title</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Pub. Year</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Genre</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
<i>The Widows of Malabar Hill</i>	Sujuata Massey	2018	A mystery set in 1920s multicultural Bombay, India; "The heroine is a lawyer who investigates a suspicious will on behalf of three Muslim widows when the case takes a turn towards the murderous."	Mystery	Carolyn Derby Elly Stephens Mary Kirk
<i>My Dear Hamilton: A Novel of Eliza Schuler Hamilton</i>	Stephanie Dray Laura Kimole	2018	A historical fiction based on Hamilton's wife Eliza. The novel is a story of "love, betrayal, and a courageous woman's search for answers."	Historical Fiction	Carolyn Derby Elly Stephens Mary Kirk
<i>My Name is Eva</i>	Suzanne Goldring	2020	An elderly English woman living in an assisted living home feigns dementia, However, "she remembers everything including her forbidden secret, a forgotten betrayal, and the promise that cost her everything."	Historical Fiction	Barbara Maletz
<i>Last Train to Key West: A Novel</i>	Chanel Cleifton	2020	In Depression era America three women of varied backgrounds have their lives "forever changed when one of the most powerful hurricanes barrels toward the Florida Keys." They meet while traveling on Henry Flagler's legendary train.	Fiction	Barbara Maletz
<i>Gentlemen and Players: A Novel</i>	Joanne Harris	2006	"A murder mystery set at an English boarding school that follows a beloved classics teacher and his students. "It's a harrowing tale of cat and mouse ending with a wonderful twist."	Mystery	MaryCarol Stearns

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<i>The Only Woman in the Room: A Novel</i>	Marie Benedict	2019	"Hedy Lamarr's beauty saved her from the rising Nazi party and led her to her German munitions dealer husband. But after overhearing the Germans' war plan, Lamarr's intellect drove her to flee her castle for Hollywood where the glamorous actress invented a ground-breaking communication device which thwarted enemy warships."	Biographical Fiction	MaryCarol Stearns
<i>The Color of Lightning: A Novel</i>	Paulette Jiles	2000	Based on oral histories, this western novel is an "intimate portrait into the hearts and hopes of Texas' early settlers, their daily lives, and their conflicts with Native Americans."	Historical Fiction	MaryCarol Stearns
<i>The Music Shop: A Novel</i>	Rachael Joyce	2018	The charming story of a music shop owner who tries to keep his store open during the changing times of the late 1980's. "If you love words, music and love, you'll love this novel."	Literary Fiction	MaryCarol Stearns
<i>The Overstory: A Novel</i>	Richard Powers	2018	2019 Pulitzer Prize winner, fiction; "An ingeniously structured narrative that branches and canopies like the trees at the core of the story whose wonder and connectivity echo those of the humans living amongst them."	Nature Fiction	Thayre Dennis
<i>Girl In Translation: A Novel</i>	Jean Kwok	2011	"An unforgettable and classic novel" about a Hong Kong Chinese mother and her daughter who migrate to Brooklyn, NY. "A moving tale of hardship and triumph, heartbreak and love, and all that gets lost in translation."	Fiction	Diana Stewart

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<i>The Dutch House: A Novel</i>	Ann Patchett	2019	Pulitzer Prize finalist; "A richly moving story that explores the indelible bond between two siblings, the house of their childhood, and a past that will not let them go. It's the story of a paradise lost, that digs deeply into questions of inheritance, love, and forgiveness, of how we want to see ourselves, and who we really are."	Literary Fiction	Helen Beedy Mary Kirk
<i>Bel Canto: A Novel</i>	Ann Patchett	2004	The award winning novel, now a movie, "balances themes of love and crisis as disparate characters learn that music is their only common language."	Romance Fiction	Helen Beedy
<i>The Splendid and the Vile: A Saga of Churchill, Family, and Defiance During the Blitz</i>	Erik Larson	2020	"An intimate chronicle of Winston Churchill and London during the WWII blitz. This historical novel is an inspiring portrait of courage and leadership in a time of unprecedented crisis."	Biography	Helen Beedy
<i>The Dearly Beloved: A Novel</i>	Cara Wall	2020	"A moving portrait of love and friendship against a backdrop of social change." This tale traces two couples from the beginning of their marriages. Both husbands are co-ministers of a famous NY church.	Fiction	Mary Kirk Cindy Feeley Nan Healy
<i>St. Christopher on Pluto</i>	Nancy McKinley	2019	A collection of related short stories about two likable middle-aged single women; "terrific dialogue, boutrniful humor, and genuinely affecting scenes, this is really the full package of a rewarding read, romantic read."	Short Story	Mary Kirk

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<i>28 Summers: A Novel</i>	Elin Hildebrand	2020	A "captivating and bittersweet" novel by same author of <i>Summer of '69</i> with a similar theme as the romance <i>Same Time Next Year</i> .	Women's Fiction	Mary Kirk
<i>Bruno, chief of Police: A Mystery of the French Countryside</i>	Martin Walker	2009	The first book of Walker's 13 book mystery series set in Perigord, France features Detective Bruno, beautiful scenery, culinary delights, Bergerac wines, and romance. An "all around fun read."	Mystery	Dianne Barkley
<i>The Lions of Fifth Avenue: A Novel</i>	Fiona Davis	2020	"A historical novel about a series of book thefts at the iconic NY Public Library that roils its wealthiest patrons. Two generations of strong-willed women pick up the pieces." "A page turner for booklovers and a story of family ties, their lost dreams, and the redemption that comes from discovering the truth."	Historical Mystery Thriller	Sara-Ann Gomez
<i>The Namesake: A Novel</i>	Jhumpa Lahiru	2003	"An incisive portrait of the immigrant experience follows the Ganguli family from their traditional life in India to their arrival in the laste sixties in MA and their difficulties melding into an American way of life. The novel spans three decades, two continents, and two generations."	Literary Fiction	Cindy Feeley
<i>An American Marriage: A Novel</i>	Tafari Jones	2019	"A compelling, tense, and timely love story about two newlyweds and their friend that is packed with brave questions about race and class."	Fiction	Cindy Feeley

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<i>American Dirt: A Novel</i>	Jeanine Cummins	2020	"This book is not simply the great American novel; it's the greatest novel of las Americas." In order to save their lives, a middle class Mexican Book shop owner and her family are forced to migrate north. Upon seeing other migrants, she realizes that "everyone is running from something but is unsure of what they are running to."	Fiction	Cindy Feeley
<i>The Rent Collector: A Novel</i>	Cameron Wright	2012	"Survival for Ki Lim and Sang Ly is a daily battle at Stung Meanchey, the largest waste dump in Cambodia. They make their living scavaging recyclables from the trash. Life is hard enough with the worry for their family with the worry for their chronically ill child, and the added expense of medicines that are not working. Just when things seem worst, Sang Ly learns a secret about their ill-tempered rent collector--a secret that sets a tide that will change the life of everyone it sweeps past."	Fiction	Cindy Feeley
<i>The Moment of Lift: How Empowering Women Changes the World</i>	Melinda Gates	2019	Melinda Gates' memoir relates the stories of the "inspiring people she's met through her life travels whose stories powerfully illustrate issues that need our attention--from child marriage to gender inequity in the workplace."	Auto-biography	Cindy Feeley
<i>The Water Dancer: A Novel</i>	Ta-Nehisi Coates	2003	"A boldly conjured novel about a magical gift, a devastating loss, and an underground war for freedom."	Fantasy Fiction	Cindy Feeley
<i>A Single Thread: A Novel</i>	Tracy Chevalier	2019	This author has done a "masterful job of depicting the "surplus" women--the mothers, sisters, wives and fiancés of men lost in WWI whose job it was to remember those lost but not forgotten." One of these women joins a stitchery group which gives new meaning to her life."	Literary Fiction	Kearby Parker

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<i>The Jane Austen Society: A Novel</i>	Natalie Jenner	2020	"With the last bit of Austen's legacy threatened, a group of individuals come together to preserve both Jane Austen's home and legacy. Though they could not be more different, they are united in their love for the works and words of Austen. As each of them endures their own quiet struggle with loss and trauma, they rally together to create the Jane Austen Society."	Historical Fiction	Kearby Parker
<i>Exhalation: Stories</i>	Ted Chiang	2019	"Nine stunningly original, provocative, and poignant science fiction short stories" that are the basis of movie Arrival.	Sci Fi Short Story	Christine Costello
<i>The Collector's Apprentice: A Novel</i>	B.A. Shapiro	2019	A "historical thriller of art and revenge, of history, and love that transports readers to 1920s Paris and America." An easy, enjoyable read	Historical Thriller	Elly Stephens
<i>The Art Forger: A Novel</i>	B.A. Shapiro	2013	"Rich in historical reference, this novel is based on the famous 1990 art heist at Boston's Isabella Gardner Stewart Museum. It's a clever and complex tale of art fraud, theft, scandal, murder, and revenge."	Historical Thriller	Elly Stephens
<i>The Silent Patient</i>	Alex Michaelides	2019	A "shocking psychological thriller of a woman's act of violence against her husband and of the therapist obsessed with uncovering her motive. A mix of Hitchcockian suspense, Agatha Christie plotting, and Greek tragedy"	Psychological Thriller	Diana Stewart

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<i>Lost Man: Three Brothers, One Death, No Answer...</i>	Jane Harper	2019	"A powerful and brutal story of suspense set against the formidable Australian landscape; Two brothers meet in the remote Outback when the third brother is found dead."	Mystery	Diana Stewart
<i>Wolf Hall: A Novel</i>	Hilary Mantel	2010	An award winning historical fiction and the first book in the Wolf Hall Trilogy; "England in the early 16th century is a "heartbeat" from disaster. If Henry VIII doesn't deliver an heir, the country will be destroyed by civil war. He wants to annul his marriage of twenty years and marry Anne Boleyn. The Pope and most of Europe opposes him. Into this impasse steps Thomas Cromwell: a charmer and a bully, both idealist and opportunist, implacable in his ambition. But Henry is volatile..."	Historical Fiction	Diana Stewart
<i>The Mirror &amp; the Light: A Novel</i>	Hilary Mantel	2020	The third book in the Wolf Hall Trilogy "traces the final years of Thomas Cromwell, the boy from nowhere who climbs to the heights of power, offering a defining portrait of predator and prey, of a ferocious contest between present and past, between royal will and a common man's vision: of a modern nation making itself through conflict, passion and courage."	Historical Fiction	Diana Stewart
<i>The Overdue Life of Amy Byler:</i>	Kelly Harnes	2019	A single underappreciated mother escapes rural PA and visits NY City. "A laugh-out-loud funny, pitch-perfect novel that will have readers rooting for this unlikely, relatable, and totally lovable heroine."	Humorous Fiction	Nan Healy
<i>Sold on a Monday: A Novel</i>	Kristina McMorris	2018	A historical novel set in the Depression era that was inspired by a true life newspaper picture that "stunned the nation. It's a powerful novel of love, redemption and the unexpected paths that bring us back home." Movie	Historical Fiction	Nan Healy Sara-Ann Gomez

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<i>The Henna Artist: A Novel</i>	Alka Joshi	2020	"Escaping from an abusive marriage, seventeen-year-old Lakshmi makes her way alone to the vibrant 1950's pink city of Jaipur, India where she starts a highly repected henna business. This story is compelling and vivid in its portrait of one woman's struggle for fulfillment in a society pivoting between the traditional and the modern."	Historical Fiction	Sharon Jones Cindy Feeley
<i>A Good Neighborhood: A Novel</i>	Theresa Ann	2020	"This novel asks big questions about life in America today—what does it mean to be a good neighbor? How do we live alongside each other when we don't see eye to eye? It explores the effects of class, race, and love in a story that's as provocative as it is powerful."	Literary Fiction	Nan Healy
<i>Miracle Creek : A Novel</i>	Angie Kim	2019	A murder mystery centered around a Korean immigrant family living in VA and their "unwavering hope for a better life, even when all hope seems lost." The novel "uncovers the worst prejudice, best intentions, and tense rivalries within communities."	Legal Thriller	Nan Healy
<i>The Island of Sea Women: A Novel</i>	Lisa See	2020	"Mesmerizing historical novel about female friendship and devastating family secrets on a small Korean island." An interesting and different read	Historical Fiction	Nan Healy
<i>Boys in the Trees: A Memoir</i>	Carly Simon	2015	Carly Simon's memoir about her "remarkable life, beginning with her storied childhood as the daughter of the co-founder of publishing giant Simon & Schuster, to her musical debut as half of the folk singers Simon sisters, to her meteoric solo career. She was the first artist to win Grammy, Academy and Golden Globe Awards."	Memoir	Nan Healy

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<i>The All-Girl Filling Station's Last</i>	Fannie Rainer	2013	"A fun-filled mystery spanning generations centered on two women who are forced to reimagine who they are. There are plot twists, adventure, heartbreak and familial love in spades."	Humorous Fiction	
<i>Dear Edward</i>	Ann Napolitano	2020	"From its breathtaking premise—a boy is the sole survivor of an airplane crash—to its absolutely rhapsodic finish, Dear Edward is about the persistence of hope, the depth of love, and the unexpected, radiant moments that make up our lives."	Literary Fiction	Mary Carol Stearns
<i>Ask Again, Yes</i>	Mary Beth Keane	2019	In Mary Beth Keane's extraordinary novel, a lifelong friendship and love blossoms between Kate Gleeson and Peter Stanhope, born six months apart. One shocking night their loyalties are divided, and their bond will be tested again and again over the next thirty years. Heartbreaking and redemptive, Ask Again, Yes is a gorgeous and generous portrait of the daily intimacies of marriage and the power of forgiveness.	Literary Fiction	Mary Carol Stearns
<i>A Girl in White Gloves: A Novel of Grace Kelly</i>	Kerri Maher	2020	The fictional story of Grace Kelly traces her life from her Philadelphia childhood, her rise to movie star fame, and the "heartbreaking reasons she traded Hollywood for a crown. A glimpse of her glamorous but lonely life at the top."	Biographical Fiction	Nan Healy
<i>Deacon King Kong: A Novel</i>	James McBride	2020	"In 1969, a fumbling, cranky old church deacon shuffles into the courtyard of the Cause Houses in Brooklyn, NY. With the project's drug dealer at point-blank range, he pulls a gun from his pocket, and in front of everybody, he shoots him. In a funny, moving novel, the author brings to life the people affected by the shooting."	Literary Fiction	Mary Kirk

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<i>Stories of Your Life and Others: Stories</i>	Ted Chiang	2002	A collection of science fiction short stories “blends absorbing storytelling with meditations on the universe, being, time and space, and raises questions about the nature of reality, and what it is to be human.”	Sci Fi Short Story	Christine Costello
<i>The Everlasting: A Novel</i>	Katie Simpson Smith	2020	A sparkling historical novel; Smith bounds through 2,000 years of history, following four indelible characters as they grapple with questions of faith, freedom, and transgressive love.”	Historical Fiction	Mary Kirk
<i>The Vanishing Half: A Novel</i>	Brit Bennett	2020	A novel about twin sisters, inseparable as children, who ultimately choose to live in two very different worlds, one black and one white. The author addresses questions about who we are and who we want to be.”	Historical Fiction	Mary Kirk Laura Torrey