

BOOKS

Jackie, by Dawn Tripp. A novel about Jackie Kennedy's real life.

The Day the World Came to Town, by Jim DeFede. True story about the little town of Gander, Newfoundland, when 38 jets landed there on 9/11, and stayed there for days and days until the U.S. reopened its airports.

The Frozen River, by Ariel Lawhon. A man's body is found under the ice in the Kennebec River (Maine) in 1789.

The Sweetness of Forgetting, by Kristen Harmel. Hope, a 30 something woman, estranged from her husband, goes to France to learn the family history about WWII Paris.

The Honeymoon: A Novel of George Eliot, by Dinitia Smith. Very unusual story.

The Night Portrait, by Laura Morelli. In Milan in 1492, a 16 year old girl becomes the mistress of the Duke of Milan.

These Tangled Vines, by Julianne MacLean. Quite a story about an Italian family, both in Tuscany and in Napa Valley.

When We Meet Again, by Kristin Harmel. A woman receives a painting and a note saying: "He never stopped loving her." Off she goes to find the truth.

Outside of Grace, by Anna Daugherty. Ava leaves home to study in Scotland. She's assaulted. Loyalties are tested.

Attachments, by Rainbow Rowell. A guy is hired at a company as a security officer, but his job is to read the employee's emails. All of them.

Summer Island, by Kristin Hannah. This is one of Hannah's earliest books (2002). Good story.

The French Ingredient, by Jane Bertch. A memoir. About a visit to Paris at a young age, then years later she opens a cooking school (still in existence).

The Ride of Her Life, Elizabeth Letts. Such a story . . . a 63-year old woman rides across the U.S. in 1954.

The Two-Family House, by Lynda Loigman. Brooklyn, NY, 1947. Two babies are born in a 2-family brownstone. The mothers are sisters. Something happens.

Working Stiff, by Judy Melinek, MD and T.J. Mitchell. Dr. Melinek is a forensic pathologist in New York. September 11th. About the daily life of medical examiners.

Swan Song, by Elin Hilderbrand. Nantucket, when a \$22 mil home is purchased by the mysterious Richardsons. And soon afterwards goes up in flames.

The 19th Wife, by David Ebershoff. A murder mystery, but set within the secretive confines of the Mormon church.

The Big House by George Howe Colt. This one is a memoir. About an old, old summer house on Cape Cod.

Last to Eat, Last to Learn by Pashtana Durrani. A memoir about the author and her family, Afghanistan. About educating women.

Acceptance, by Emi Nietfeld. Wow. A memoir of her life. Her mom was a hoarder, yet Emi got into Harvard.

Elon Musk, by Walter Isaacson. I read this book awhile ago now (August, '24). This is the brand new book about Elon. I was riveted from page one all the way through.

The Lost King of France, by Deborah Cadbury. The subtitle says it all: How DNA Solved the Mystery of the Murdered Son of Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette.

The Prague Sonata by Bradford Morrow. This is a novel, about a musical manuscript suddenly unearthed, in Queens, New York.

A World Full of Strangers, by Cynthia Freeman. A young 17-year old girl is all alone in London when her mother dies. She makes it to New York in 1932.

Secrets of a Charmed Life, by Susan Meissner. Dual time line story about a current day scholar at Oxford and 1940s about the children who were evacuated to the countryside.

James, by Percival Everett. Just won the National Book Award. If you were a fan of Huckleberry Finn, this is a new retelling of the story.

Why We Read, by Shannon Reed. A writer's journey reading through her life.

Mrs. Van Gogh by Caroline Cauchi. There's another novel out about the same subject (see next book below) - Johanna Van Gogh-Bonger, Vincent's brother's wife.

The Secret Life of Sunflowers, by Marta Molnar. I liked this book (version) better than the one above. It drew me in even more to the story about Johanna Van Gogh.

Long Island by Colm Toibin. The turbulent story of two (or really four) related families who live close together on Long Island.

Three Inch Teeth, by C.J.Box. Another one of Box's white-knuckling mystery stories set in Wyoming.

The Gown, by Jennifer Robson. This story (novel) is about the wedding gown designed for Queen Elizabeth.

The Secret of Villa Alba, by Louise Douglas. A mystery about a woman who disappeared in 1968 in Sicily.

The Concubine, by Norah Lofts. This one is all about Anne Boleyn.

Fellowship Point by Alice Elliott Dark. One of the best books I've read in a long, long time. Maine - revolves around the friendship between two women and their families.

On Mystic Lake, Kristin Hannah. A woman sees her young adult daughter go off to school. In the next breath her husband tells her he's in love with someone else and leaves.

A Wild and Heavenly Place by Robin Oliveira. Pacific Northwest in its very early days.

The Women, Kristin Hannah. Vietnam War, delves deeply into the harsh environment of the nursing corps (and doctors too) who did their best to patch up the thousands of soldiers who could possibly be saved after the ugly battles.

The Map Colorist by Rebecca D'Harlingue. Who knew there were such map-coloring artists back in the 1600s. And to find a woman doing it was unheard of.

The Paris Novel, Ruth Reichl. Stella receives an unlikely inheritance from her mother - a one way ticket to Paris.

In Five Years by Rebecca Serle. Amazon tells it best: A what if story - a woman awakens 5 years in the future. Wild story

The Paris Daughter, Kristen Harmel. Two young women friends in Paris in 1939. A Jewish child is saved.

Master Slave Husband Wife by Ilyon Woo. True story - 1848, enslaved Black couple, she fairer skinned, him dark skinned, manage to escape bondage. Riveting.

The Tiffany Girl by Deanne Gist. Flossie Jayne, a student at the Art Institute in NYC, is asked to help THE Mr. Louis Tiffany, finish the very elaborate glass chapel at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893.

The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post by Allison Pataki. This is a book of historical fiction, but is very much the story of Marjorie Merriweather Post. Her life. Her goals. Her daughters.

Fox Creek by William Kent Kreuger. Weaves Indian territory and mores with a murder mystery.

Chenneville, Paulette Jiles. When a Union soldier finds his sister and family were murdered, he's on the hunt. I've loved Jiles' writing ever since I read News of the World by her. She's a really good story-teller.

The Wave by Sonali Deraniyagala. Tsunami in Sri Lanka, true story. Oh my goodness.

The Art of Resistance by Justus Rosenberg. His parents sent him off to Paris early on to go to school, from Danzig (which likely saved his life), but he becomes the hunted, and eventually part of the underground.

The Royal Librarian by Daisy Wood. An accomplished librarian from Austria in 1940, is sent to

Windsor to sort the centuries of valuable books, maps and treasures of the Royal Family.

Long Time Gone by Charlie Donlea. About familial DNA. Great mystery.

Under the Java Moon, by Heather Moore. True story (written as fiction, though) about a few Dutch families who are taken prisoner on Java Island, by the Japanese.

Blind Your Ponies, by Stanley Gordon West. The story is about basketball in a small Montana town.

A Girl Called Samson, by Amy Harmon. 1760, Massachusetts. Girl dresses as a boy and becomes a union soldier.

On Mystic Lake, by Kristin Hannah. Annie finds out (on the day their daughter goes off to a foreign land for an exchange quarter) that her husband is in love with another woman and leaves her.

The Vineyard, by Barbara Delinsky. A novel with many current day issues. Husband and wife own a vineyard in Rhode Island. Husband dies. Widow soon (too soon) marries the manager.

Consequences, Penelope Lively. A rather dotted line family, the women, as they grow through worn-torn London and England. Lively won the Booker Prize for Moon Tiger, her most famous book.

Below Zero, C.J. Box. Mystery of the first order.

Consolations of the Forest: Alone in a Cabin on the Siberian Taiga, by Sylvain Tesson. About a late 30s guy who seems to crave solitude; he's offered a 11x11 cabin in the cold/frozen Siberian outback, on a huge lake that freezes over in winter.

As Bright as Heaven, by Susan Meissner. 1918. Philadelphia. About a young family arriving with the highest of hopes. Then the Spanish Flu hits and dashes everything.

Hour of the Witch, by Chris Bohjalian. Boston, 1662. A young woman becomes the 2nd wife of a powerful man, a cruel man.

My Oxford Year, by Julia Whelan. At 24, a young woman is honored with a Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford.

Madame Pommery, by Rebecca Rosenberg. Real history, a novel about Madame Pommery who blazed a trail that was not well received (no women in the champagne business for starters).

The Wager, by David Grann. A true tale of shipwreck, mutiny and murder back in the 1740s.

Before We Were Yours, by Lisa Wingate. 1939. A shantyboat in the backwaters of the Mississippi River. A 12-year old girl is left to care for her younger siblings when her mother is taken ill.

The Vaster Wilds, by Lauren Goff. This tells the story of a young servant girl, in the aftermath of the starvation in Jamestown.

Lady Tan's Circle of Woman, Lisa See. Historical fiction, from 1469, Ming Dynasty, China. Based on

the true story, however, about a young woman mostly raised by her grandmother who is a well known physician.

Winter Garden, by Kristen Hannah. Washington State with apple orchards forming a backdrop and family business. Two sisters return home to help care for their ailing father.

Trail of the Lost, by Andrea Lankford. She is an avid hiker, tries to find some missing people who have disappeared off the face of the earth on the Pacific Crest Trail.

Remarkably Bright Creatures, by Shelby Van Pelt. It's a novel about the intelligence of octopus.

Trust, by Herman Diaz. This novel is an enigma in so many ways. It's a book, within a book, within a book. About the stock market crash back in 1929.

Becoming Dr. Q, by Alfredo Quiñones-Hinojosa, MD, is an Associate Professor of Neurosurgery and Oncology at Johns Hopkins University. His memoir.

The Invincible Miss Cust, by Penny Haw. In 1868 Ireland, a woman wasn't allowed to attend veterinary school, but she did.

Someone Else's Shoes, by Jojo Moyes. At the gym someone else grabs her gym bag, so she grabs the similar one. Crazy, funny story.

The Eleventh Man, Ivan Doig. Ben, part of a Montana college football team in the 1940s, joins the service during WWII. So do all of his eleven teammates.

Wavewalker, by Suzanne Heywood. Oh my goodness. A memoir about a very young English girl who goes off with her besotted and narcissistic parents and her brother on a years-long sailing journey supposedly following the route of James Cook.

The Price of Inheritance, by Karin Tanabe. This is a mystery, of sorts. Our heroine is an up and coming employee at Christie's (auction house).

The Covenant of Water, by Abraham Verghese. Did you read Cutting for Stone, years ago, by this author? The book takes place in a little known area of southern India.

Finding Dorothy, by Elizabeth Letts. My friend Dianne recommended this book to me, and it was so special. Loved it beginning to end. It's based on the story of 77-year old Maud Gage Baum (her husband Frank Baum wrote The Wizard of Oz).

The Bandit Queens, by Parini Shroff. It's about a young Indian woman, Geeta, as she tries her best to make a living after her husband leaves her.

The Measure, Nikki Erlick. Everyone in the world finds a wooden box on their doorstep, or in front of their camper or tent, that contains a string. Nothing but a string. The string predicts how long you'll live.

The Book Spy by Alan Hlad. True story, but in novel form, of a special Axis group of men and women

librarians who find and share vital info.

A Dangerous Business, Jane Smiley. What a story. 1850s gold rush, story of two young prostitutes, finding their way in a lawless town in the Wild West.

Defiant Dreams, by Sola Mahfouz. True story about the author, born in Afghanistan in 1996. This is about her journey to acquire an education.

The Rome Apartment, by Kerry Fisher. Such a cute story. Maybe not an interesting read for a man. It's about Beth, whose husband has just left her, and her daughter has just gone off to college. She goes to Rome .. .

All the Beauty in the World, a memoir by Patrick Bringley. Bringley was at loose ends and accepted a job as a guard at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in NYC.

The Queen's Lady, by Joanna Hickson. I love stories about Tudor England, and this one didn't disappoint. Joan Guildford is a lady in waiting to Queen Elizabeth.

Philippa Gregory, Dawnlands. Very interesting about English history, but about the same families from the first book in the group. Loved it, as I loved all of them.

Am currently reading Rutherford's long, long book, Paris. It's a saga that goes back and forth in time, following the travails of various people and families.

Although this book says A Christmas Memory, by Richard Paul Evans, it's not just about Christmas. A young boy is the hero here, but really an older widower man who lives next door plays a pivotal part of this book.

Wish You Were Here, by Jodi Picoult. A thirty-something woman, about to take a trip with her boyfriend, when Covid breaks out. Covid plays a major role in this book, beginning to end.

Not everyone wants to read food memoirs. When I saw Sally Schmitt had written a memoir, titled Six California Kitchens .

As soon as it came out, I ordered Spare, by Prince Harry. I've always been interested in the Royal Family.

Unaccustomed Earth by Jhumpa Lahiri. Short stories - each one in this book could be made into a full-fledged novel.

A Lantern in Her Hand, by Beth Streeter Aldrich. Wild west, covered wagon time up to about 80 years later as the heroine, Abbie Deal, and her husband start a family in a small town.

Four Seasons in Rome by Anthony Doerr. About him, his wife and twin babies, going to Rome for a year.

Kristin Hannah's Distant Shores. A couple who married young. His career soared; hers put on hold. Now the children are grown and again it's about his pursuits.

Oh, William! by Elizabeth Strout. Lucy Barton is divorced. But she's still sort of friendly with her ex.

Tidelands, by Philippa Gregory. It tells the tale of a peasant woman, Alinor (an herbalist and midwife), who lives barely above the poverty level, trying to raise two children, during the time of great turmoil in England, the rancorous civil war about Charles 1.

Read Reminders of Him, by Colleen Hoover. A young woman is convicted of a crime (young and foolish type). Once released her sole purpose is to be a part of her daughter's life.

The Last Anniversary by Liane Moriarty. Sophie walked away from her wedding day, and always wondered if she made the wrong decision.

Very funny and poignant story, Mrs. Palfrey at the Claremont, by Elizabeth Taylor (no, not that one). Mrs. Palfrey, a woman of a certain age, moves into an old folks' home in London. It's a sort of hotel, but has full time elderly quirky residents.

For one of my book clubs we read Lessons in Chemistry, by Bonnie Garmus. This book is so hard to describe.

Horse. By Brooks. About a real racehorse owned by a black man, back in the 1850s. Technically, the story is about a painting of the horse but there are many twists and turns.

The Book of Lost Names, by Kristin Harmel (no, not Hannah). Certainly a little-known chunk of history about a woman who becomes a master forger during WWII to help get Jewish children out of France.

Liane Moriarty's first novel, Three Wishes, follows the travails of adult triplets, so different, yet similar in many ways.

Recently I've read both of Erin French's books, her cookbook, The Lost Kitchen, and since then her memoir, Finding Freedom. About her life growing up (difficult) about her coming of age.

Jo Jo Moyes The Girl You Left Behind, Two timelines, one during WWI, in France, when a relatively unknown painter (in the style of Matisse) paints a picture of his wife. The war intervenes for both the husband and the wife.

Eli Shafak's Island of Missing Trees. About Cyprus (the island), and problems between the Turks and the Greeks. A fig tree plays a major role.

Also read Apples Never Fall by Liane Moriarty. I've never understood people who do this. The book chronicles the day a mom just ups and disappears.

Dede Mearns's The Space Between. A wife returns to her home after being away on business for a few days, to find her husband missing and what he's left for her is an unexplained bank deposit of a million dollars.

Read Alyson Richman's historical novel called The Velvet Hours. Paris, a young woman and her grandmother, a very wealthy (but aging) woman who led a life of a semi-courtesan.

Susan Meissner, *The Nature of Fragile Things*. About a young Irish immigrant, desperate to find a way out of poverty, answers an ad for a mail order bride.

Rachel Hauck's *The Writing Desk*. A writer is asked to go to Florida to help her mother (from whom she's mostly estranged) through chemo. She goes, hoping she can find new inspiration.

Also recently finished *The Weight of Ink* by Rachel Kadish. The book goes backwards and forwards in time, from the 1600s in London with the day-to-day lives of a group of Jews (who had to be very careful about how they worshiped) to current day as an old house is discovered to hold a treasure-trove of historical papers.

Colleen Hoover has written quite a book, *It Ends with Us: A Novel*, a love story but also about domestic violence.

Nicolas Barreau's novel *Love Letters from Montmartre: A Novel* is about grieving; you can't predict day to day, week to week. "Snap out of it," people say, thinking they're helping.

Another very quirky book, that happens to contain a lot of historical truth is *The Phone Booth at the Edge of the World: A Novel* by Harry N. Abrams. Japan just after the tsunami 10 years ago when 18,000 people died. At a private park miles away, some very special people installed a phone booth, with a phone (that didn't work) at the edge of the park, and the survivors of the tsunami began wending their way there to "talk" to their deceased loved ones. Very poignant story.

West with Giraffes: A Novel by Lynda Rutledge. Back in the 1930s a small group of giraffes were brought across the Atlantic from Africa to New York, destined for the then-growing San Diego Zoo.

Could hardly put down Krueger's book, *This Tender Land: A Novel*. Tells the harrowing story of a young boy, Odie, (and his brother Albert) who became orphans back in the 30s.

Just finished Kristin Hannah's latest book, *The Four Winds: A Novel*. About the "dust bowl" years when there was a steady migration of down-and-out farmers from the Midwest, to California.

Also finished reading Sue Monk Kidd's recent book, *The Book of Longings: A Novel*. It is a book that might challenge some Christian readers, as it tells the tale of Jesus marrying a woman named Mary

Jeanine Cummins has written an eye-opener, *American Dirt*. About migrants - a woman and her young son, who were lucky enough to hide when the cartel murdered every member of her family - about her journey and escape to America.

Also read JoJo Moyes' book, *The Giver of Stars*. Oh gosh, what a GREAT book. Alice joins the Horseback Librarians in the rural south.

Frances Liardet, *We Must Be Brave*. WWII England, this book is not really about the war. It's about the people at home, waiting it out, struggling with enough food, clothing and enough heat.

William Kent Krueger wrote *Ordinary Grace*. A boy standing at the door of his young manhood, trying to understand a world that seems to be falling apart around him.

A Column of Fire: A Novel by Ken Follett. It takes place in the 1500s, in England, and has everything to do with the war between the Catholics and the Protestants, that raged throughout Europe during that time, culminating in the Spanish Inquisition.

My Name Is Resolute by Nancy Turner. She's the author of another book of some renown, These is my Words:

The Shepherd's Life: Modern Dispatches from an Ancient Landscape by James Rebanks. This is a memoir of a young man growing up in the Lake District of Northern England, who becomes a shepherd.