Staff Picks
Spring 2018

Fiction

Orphan in America by Nanette Avery: This well written piece of historical fiction starts with a little boy on an orphan train in the mid-1800s, but soon evolves into a saga of other families and how their lives intertwine. The author spent several years immersing herself in the history and lifestyle of the 19th century and it shows in her writing. - Linda

The Story of Arthur Truluv by Elizabeth Berg: Three remarkably different individuals find their way through love and loss in this absolutely delightful story from Elizabeth Berg. Berg will make you think about family and what defines a family, and how the right people often appear when we need them the most. - Leanne

Indigo Girl by Natasha Boyd: This historical fiction account of the early life of Eliza Lucas, chronicles a teenage girl left to manage her father’s plantations in 1700s South Carolina. In an effort to save the land, she decides to produce indigo dye. This is the story of her quest for knowledge, the societal forces that held her back and the help she needed to be successful. - Linda

I Hate Everyone But You by Gaby Dunn and Allison Raskin (Teen): A quirky, fun and modern epistolary novel -- in the form of text and email messages -- about the coming of age of two best friends who embark on the first year of college, thousands of miles apart. - Davonne

Seven Days of Us by Francesca Hornak: Imagine seven days of quarantine, at Christmastime, with you, your husband, and two adult children. Add in family secrets, a horrible virus, and a bit of comedy. In Hornak’s first novel, I found a warm, and humane take on a cast of characters. This is a wry, masterful portrayal of one family in crisis. - Linda

Death at the Chateau Bremont by M.L. Longworth: This is the first in a series of seven titles that follow the adventures of chief magistrate Antoine Verlaque and his on again/off again paramour, Marine Bonnet. If you like your mysteries less-gruesome and with a side of wine and French countryside, this is a great series to check out. - Leanne

Ninth Hour by Alice McDermott: A somewhat dark and haunting exploration of the limits of faith, sacrifice and forgiveness portrayed through scenes of everyday life in 20th century Irish-Catholic Brooklyn. - Davonne

The Austen Escape by Katherine Reay: If books do indeed keep us warm, then The Austen Escape is a cozy blanket on a rainy Sunday. Best friends Mary and Isabel embark on a trip to the land of Jane Austen where they find their friendship challenged by a shared history and an uncertain future, unexpected romance, and career changes. This story was the perfect blend of friendship and romance with a touch of Jane Austen. - Leanne

Bone Gap by Laura Ruby (Teen): The title reflects true recognition of the gaps in knowledge surrounding small town life, juxtaposed against the main character, Finn’s witness of a crime. However, his face recognition disorder prohibits him from identifying the criminal. The story also interjects allusions to Greek mythology - Davonne
Non-Fiction

**The Cheese Trap** by Dr. Neal Barnard: New York Times bestselling author Dr. Neal Barnard reveals the shocking truth about cheese—the dangerous addiction that is harming your health—and presents a radical program to lose weight and feel great. We've been told that dairy does a body good, but the truth is that cheese can be dangerous. Loaded with calories, fat, and cholesterol, cheese can make you gain weight and lead to a host of health problems like high blood pressure and arthritis. Worse, it contains mild opiates that make it addictive, triggering the same brain receptors as heroin and morphine. In *The Cheese Trap*, Dr. Neal Barnard presents a comprehensive program to help readers break free of their cheese addiction so they can lose weight, boost energy, and improve their overall health. This easy-to-follow diet features a treasury of healthy recipes that will tame even the toughest cravings; from pizza, to lasagna, to ice cream and cheesecake. – *Brian*

**We Were Eight Years in Power** by Ta-Nehisi Coates: A collection of dense and beautifully written essays with historically relevant insights into today’s volatile society. Essays were originally published in *The Atlantic* magazine. – *Davonne*

**Tell Me More: Stories About the 12 Hardest Things I’m Learning to Say** by Kelly Corrigan: Kelly Corrigan is the type of person you would want for a best friend. In this insightful and relatable read, Corrigan explores the twelve phrases that sustain and uphold relationships. A fresh and inviting read. – *Leanne*

**Death and Life in the Great Lakes** by Dan Egan: Fascinating and well-researched, this book is an important study of human intervention in the Great Lakes and the subsequent consequences, whether intentional or not. – *Davonne*

**The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up** by Marie Kondo: This is a great place to start if you are interested in minimalism or are just overwhelmed by clutter. Maria Kondo guides you through each step of the de-cluttering and determining which items "spark joy." An entertaining and insightful read. – *Katie*

**The World of Lore: Monstrous Creatures** by Aaron Mahnke: I listen to the Lore podcast and was very much looking forward to this book. Lore explores folktales and legends and how they came to be as well as how they live on. This particular book goes over the different creatures that have filled folklore over the years, such as ghosts, the Jersey Devil, gremlins, among others. The author, much like his podcast, does a good job of getting the facts from the legend and finding humanity in the stories. If you do listen to the podcast, there will be a lot of repeats here but I highly recommend it to those who might be fans of this subject. – *Talia*

**The World of Laura Ingalls Wilder** by Marta McDowell: This title explores Wilder’s relationship to the natural world and how that relationship informed her writing. Full of historical photographs and wonderful illustrations, this book is a must for any Laura Ingalls Wilder fan. – *Leanne*

**This Messy Magnificent Life: A Field Guide** by Geneen Roth: Geneen Roth has a way of breaking it down and busting it open that makes this book an absolute field guide for life. Chapter after chapter will have the reader saying, "me too." – *Leanne*

**Educated: A Memoir** by Tara Westover: Born into a survivalist family, Tara Westover never set foot in a formal classroom until the age of 17. As she began to distance herself from her family’s beliefs, Tara found a world of knowledge and information waiting for her. A sometimes heart wrenching read that is a testament to the power and tenacity of the human spirit. – *Leanne*