

WHAT'S ON YOUR NIGHTSTAND

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

MAY 2015

FICTION

Boys in the Boat (audio) Daniel James- improbable, intimate account of how nine working-class boys from Washington state showed the world at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin what true grit really meant. **(Elizabeth)**

Island: the Complete Stories – Alistair MacLeod-a powerful collection of short stories set on Canada's Eastern shore- **(Ann)**

My Sunshine Away – M.O. Walsh- the meaning of family, power of memory and our ability to forgive- **(Ann)**

Nowhere Else on Earth – Josephine Humphries-North Carolina at the close of the Civil War dealing with suffering and revenge- **(Charlet)**

Orphan Train – Christina Baker Kline –young immigrant orphans taken by trains to adoptive (sometimes abusive) families in Minnesota - **(Shelli)**

Rich in Love – Josephine Humphries-coming of age during a family's upheaval and reconfiguration - **(Charlet)**

Sweetland – Michael Crummy – epic tale of an endangered Newfoundland community and the struggle of one man to resist its extinction - **(Carol)**

NONFICTION

Inconvenient Indian – Thomas King – an eye opening overview of Native peoples in North America - **(Katie)**

Missoula – Jon Krakauer – a series of sexual assaults at the University of Montana highlight the rape culture in America - **(Sarah)**

Orange is the New Black – Piper Kerman –having been convicted of involvement in a drug deal, a Smith college alumna does time in a federal prison **(Charlet)**

Remarkable Huntingtons Archer and Anna: Chronicle of a Marriage – Mary Mitchell – lives of a pair of multimillionaires, artists and philanthropists - **(Charlet)**

Romany and Tom – Ben Watt – a musician’s honest, sometimes painful, often funny portrait of his parents - **(Elizabeth)**

The Swerve: How the World Became Modern –Stephen Greenblatt – birth of philosophical modernity - **(Sarah)**

OTHER....

Kathy participated in a “mini-bookstock” in Manchester VT which consisted of 2 full days of conversations with 7 authors and 90 bookophiles. The authors talked about writing, inspiration, curiosity, and the importance of listening.....Kathy was MOST taken with three:

Megan Mayhew Bergman – short stories – *Birds of Lesser Paradise* and *Almost Famous Women*

Mary Doria Russell – her latest books destroy the Wyatt Earp myth: *Doc* and *Epitaph*

Michael Crummey - *Sweetland*, this latest joins his other work centering around Newfoundland

Charlet recommends a trip to Bookgreen Gardens <http://www.brookgreen.org/>
- especially for the sculptures by artist Anna Huntington