

# 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 Crumley –** 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