

**WHAT'S ON YOUR NIGHTSTAND
BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS
MAY 2021**

FICTION

Hamnet - Maggie O'Farrell- O'Farrell imagines the emotional repercussions after the world's most famous (though never named) playwright and his wife lose their only son, 11-year-old Hamnet

The Hare - Melanie Finn a young woman finds herself in a rural Vermont cabin with her daughter after being abandoned by her cruel, domineering lover and must find ways to survive.

Molokai - Alan Brennert- people ravaged with Leprosy are exiled to a settlement on the island of Molokai, and embrace life instead of death

One-in-a-Million Boy - Monica Wood- a friendship between a 104-year-old woman and the sweet, strange young boy assigned to help her around the house

Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet - David Mitchell- set in Japan at the turn of the 19th century, Jacob de Zoet, a clerk with the Dutch East Indies Company, falls for a Japanese woman

We Begin at the End - Chris Whitaker- an extraordinary novel about two kinds of families—the ones we are born into and the ones we create

NONFICTION

Dostoevsky in Love: an Intimate Life - Alex Christofi-Reading between the lines of the fiction, Christofi reconstructs the memoir Dostoevsky might have written had life – and literary stardom – not intervened

Invention of Nature: Alexander Humboldt - Andrea Wulf -the visionary German naturalist whose ideas changed the way we see the natural world—and in the process created modern environmentalism.

A Promised Land - Barack Obama- A Memoir of Obama's time in the White House

When Time Stopped: a Memoir of my Father's War and What Remains - Ariana Neumann -
A moving saga of war and the Holocaust