What’s On Your Nightstand
Book Recommendations
January 2022

FICTION

The Dictionary of Lost Words - Pip Williams - Esme's father is a lexicographer working on the first Oxford English Dictionary. After realizing that words and meanings relating to women's and common folks' experiences often go unrecorded, she begins in earnest to search out words for her own dictionary: the Dictionary of Lost Words.

Hidden Palace - Helene Wecker - A golem and a jinni hide their true magical selves and try to pass as human—just two more immigrants in the bustling world of 1900s Manhattan. Brought together under calamitous circumstances, their lives are now entwined—but they're not yet certain of what they mean to each other.

The Hills Is Lonely - Lillian Beckworth - These classic stories based on Beckworth's convalescence on an isolated Hebridean island where 'even the sheeps on the hills is lonely' are shot through with warm, cosy affection and droll wit.

Louise Penny Books

Still Life - Sarah Winman - This tale brings together an unlikely group of friends – a young English soldier, an aging art historian, a pub owner, a pianist and more – in an epic set against the backdrop of mid-to-late-20th-century Florence.

Thursday Murder Club - Richard Osman - in a peaceful retirement village, four unlikely friends meet every Thursday in the Jigsaw Room to discuss unsolved crimes.

Oh, William - Elizabeth Strout - Lucy Barton is a writer, but her ex-husband, William, remains a hard man to read. Why have the two remained connected after all these years? They just are.

Once There Were Wolves - Charlotte McConaghy - Inti Flynn arrives in Scotland to lead a team of biologists tasked with reintroducing fourteen gray wolves into the remote Highlands. an unforgettable story of a woman desperate to save the creatures she loves.

The Vanishing Half - Britt Bennett - The Vignes identical twin sisters grow up in their Black community. But now, one sister lives with her black daughter, the other secretly passes for white. What happens when their lives intersect?
**NONFICTION**

**1619 Project** - **Nikole Hannah-Jones** the legacy of slavery did not end with emancipation, but continues to shape contemporary American life.

**Bibliostyle: How We Live at Home with Books** - **Nina Freudenberger** - this design book features some of the most jaw-dropping book collections of homeowners around the world.

**Leadership in Turbulent Times** - **Doris Kearns Goodwin** - an accessible and essential road map for aspiring and established leaders in every field.

**Man's Search for Meaning** - **Viktor E. Frankl** - Frankl's classic work continues to inspire us all to find significance in the very act of living, in spite of all obstacles.

Notes from Anne Shafmaster who will join us again when we can meet in person:

“About a mile further, on a road I had never travelled, we came to an orchard of starving apple-trees writing over a hillside among outcroppings of slate that nuzzled up through the snow like animals pushing their noses to breathe.”

Just one of many magnificently written lines from **Ethan Frome** and why reading is such a balm and why I choose to write.

– Happy New Year to all, Anne