

What's On Your Nightstand - Book Recommendations - September 2022

FICTION

Ancient Light - **John Banville** - a retiring stage actor finds himself writing about the summer he was 15 and embroiled in a mad and taboo love- memory or invention?

Between Sisters - **Kristin Hannah** - two sisters, once lost to each other, about to come together in a time of exquisite joy and almost unbearable sadness.

Horse - **Geraldine Brooks** - ...In the novel, which spans from the 1850's to the present,...A discarded painting in a junk pile, a skeleton in an attic, and one of the great racehorses in American history come together in a tale of spirit, obsession, and injustice

The House of Fortune - **Jessie Burton** - a sequel to *The Miniaturist*, small figurines are still appearing mysteriously decades later, now delivered to Nella Brandt's niece.

The Marriage Portrait - **Maggie O'Farrell** - Set in Renaissance Italy, an extraordinary story of a resilient young woman's battle for her very survival.

Reading through **D. H. Lawrence** - *The Rainbow, Sons and Lovers*.....Lawrence's collected works represent an extended reflection upon the English class system, industrialization and groundbreaking (for the time) sexual language.

NONFICTION

The Art of Memoir - **Mary Karr** - Karr offers a master class in the essential elements of great memoir

All Summer's Ahead - a poetry almanac - **Ann Thomas** - finely observed, delicate, inviting, thoughtful poetry The late poet was a Woodstock resident whose daughter still lives here.

American Psychosis: An Historical Investigation of How the Republican Party Went Crazy - **David Corn** - The author is *Mother Jones'* Washington bureau chief and an on-air analyst for MSNBC.

Gal: a true Life - **Ruthie Mae Bolton** - Despite being born to a 13 year old "mother" and having an exceptionally brutal childhood complete with drugs and alcohol, Ruthie was able to graduate from high school and find a meaningful life.

Holding the Line: Inside the Nation's Preeminent US Attorney's Office and Its Battle with the Trump Justice Department - **Geoffrey Berham** - The author served as US Attorney for the Southern District of New York

In Love: a Memoir of Love and Loss - **Amy Bloom** - this heartbreaking and surprising memoir, sheds light on a part of life we so often shy away from discussing—its ending.

Reading through *Letters of Shirley Jackson* - **Shirley Jackson** - an ongoing discussion of the life, letters, and drawings of Shirley Jackson. One of our participants has an art installation at Jackson's house in Bennington.

A Little Devil in America: Notes of Praise in Black Performance - **Habif Abdurraqib** - Social criticism, pop culture, and autobiography come together

Shmuel's Bridge: Following the Tracks to Auschwitz with my Survivor Father - **Jason Sommer** - In 2001, Jason and his father, Jay, traveled from the town of Jay's birth to the labor camp from which he escaped, and to Auschwitz, where many in his family were lost.