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* - Habib 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.