WHAT’S ON YOUR NIGHTSTAND
BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS
JAN 2023

FICTION

Cafe on the Edge of the World: a story about the meaning of life - John Strelecky - In a small cafe at a location so remote it stands in the middle of nowhere a visitor finds three unusual questions on the back of a menu…. Why are you here? Do you fear death? Are you fulfilled?

Foster - Claire Keegan - While her mother awaits the birth of her youngest child, a young girl is dropped off at a farm in rural Ireland to stay with relatives and experiences a level of love and attention she has not known before.

Joan: a novel of Joan of Arc - Catherine Chen - A secular reimagining and feminist celebration of the legendary saint’s life which transforms Joan into a flawed yet undeniable young woman.

In the Distance - Hernan Diaz - A Swedish boy walks across 19th-century America in a thrilling coming-of-age narrative that critiques frontier myths

Remarkably Bright Creatures - Shelby Van Pelt - An acerbic octopus whose intervention in his new friend’s life sets her up for healing lessons in love, loss, and family.

Small Things Like These - Claire Keegan - An Irishman uncovers abuse at a Magdalene laundry (an institution for “fallen” women) in this compact and gripping novel

Surgeon’s Daughter - Audrey Blake - In the 19th century women were expected to remain at home and raise children, so the only female student at a medical school with ambitions to become a licensed practitioner, offends the men around her.

NONFICTION

Did Ye Hear Mammy Died? - Seamas O’Reilly - This memoir begins with 5 year old Seamas’s perspective of those surreal days of Mammy’s death & funeral to his adulthood - and all the different stages of grief / life in between.
Eat Like a Fish: My Adventures as a Fisherman Turned Restorative Ocean Farmer - Bren Smith—a former fisherman shares a bold and hopeful new vision for saving the planet: farming the ocean.

ALSO briefly DISCUSSED

An Immense World - How Animal Senses Reveal the Hidden Realms Around Us - Ed Yong

How to Speak Whale - Tom Mustill

My Octopus Teacher - a documentary of a filmmaker who forges an unusual friendship with an octopus living in a South African kelp forest

Ruth Stone’s Vast Library of the Female Mind - documentary of a poet who lived in Vermont

The Soul of an Octopus - Sy Montgomery