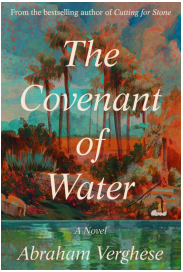


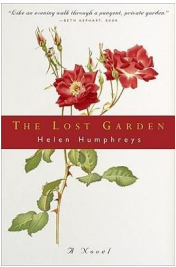
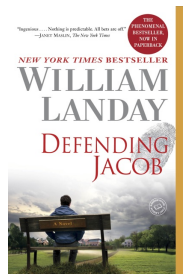
# What's On Your Nightstand Book Discussion - June 2023



## FICTION

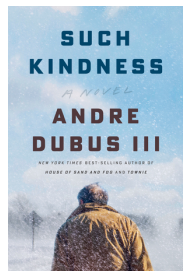
**The Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghese** (both print and audio versions are highly recommended) - Spanning the years 1900 to 1977 in Kerala, on South India's Malabar Coast, the novel follows three generations of a family that suffers a peculiar affliction: In every generation, at least one person dies by drowning—and in Kerala, water is everywhere.

**Defending Jacob by William Landay** - The “happy” Barber family is suddenly in crisis—a teenager is murdered in the neighborhood and their son is a prime suspect. How far would you go to protect your child? It is a test of devotion. A test of how well a parent can know a child.

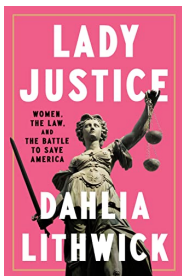


**The Lost Garden by Helen Humphreys** - As 1941 London is on fire from the Blitz, a young woman gardener flees the city for the countryside joining the Land Army which teaches young women to plant food crops on old country estates

**Such Kindness by Andre Dubus III** - Tom Lowe's identity and his pride are invested in the work he does with his back and his hands. Until, in a moment of fatigued inattention while shingling a roof in too-bright sunlight, he falls. Tom slowly comes to realize that he can never work again. If he is not a working man, who is he?

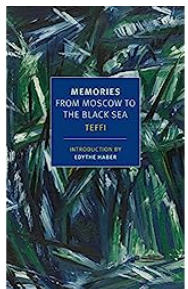


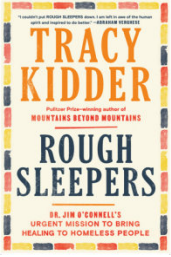
## NONFICTION



**Lady Justice: Women, the Law, and the Battle to Save America by Dahlia Lithwick** - an account of some of the extraordinary women lawyers to whom this country owes a debt for their leadership and fearless advocacy during some of the darkest days of the Trump administration

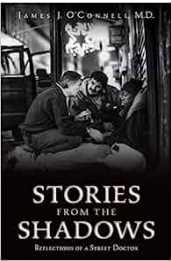
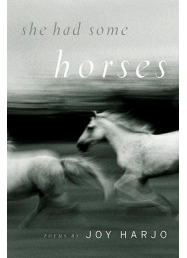
**Memories from Moscow to the Black Sea by Teffi** - the 1918 account of the author's last months in Russia and Ukraine suffused with her acute awareness of the political currents churning around her, many of which have now resurfaced





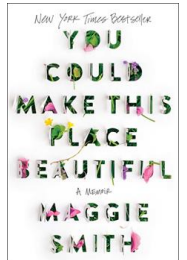
**Rough Sleepers: Dr. Jim O'Connell's Urgent Mission to Bring Healing to Homeless People by Tracy Kidder** - The powerful story of an inspiring doctor who made a difference, by helping to create a program to care for Boston's homeless community

**She Had Some Horses by Joy Harjo** (a three term Poet Laureate of the United States) - a powerful exploration of womanhood's most intimate moments. The poems speak of women's despair, of their imprisonment and ruin at the hands of men and society, but also of their awakenings, power, and love.



**Stories From the Shadows: Reflections of a Street Doctor by James J O'Connell** - O'Connell's collection of stories and essays, written during thirty years of caring for homeless persons in Boston,

**You Could Make This Place Beautiful: A Memoir by Maggie Smith** - Beginning with one woman's personal heartbreak, its circles widen into a reckoning with contemporary womanhood, traditional gender roles, and the power dynamics that persist even in many progressive homes.



## AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT

**Dopesick, a Series on HULU** -"the epicenter of America's struggle with opioid addiction" across the U.S., on how individuals and families are affected by it, on the alleged conflicts of interest involving Purdue Pharma and various government agencies such as the Food and Drug Administration and the United States Department of Justice, and finally, on the legal case against Purdue Pharma and their development, testing and marketing of the drug OxyContin.