What’s On Your Nightstand
Book Recommendations – September 2023

FICTION

The All of It by Jeannette Hainen - the seemingly simple tale of a parishioner confiding in her priest, but the tangled confession brings secrets to light that provoke a moral quandary for not only the clergyman, but the reader as well.

The Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghese - an epic of love, faith, and medicine, set in Kerala, South India, following three generations of a family seeking the answers to a strange secret.

Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver - Many generations ago, Charles Dickens wrote David Copperfield from his experience as a survivor of institutional poverty and its damages to children in his society. In transposing a Victorian epic novel to the contemporary American South, Kingsolver enlists Dickens’ anger and compassion, and above all, his faith in the transformative powers of a good story. Demon Copperhead speaks for a new generation of lost boys, and all those born into beautiful, cursed places they can’t imagine leaving behind.

The First Ladies by Marie Benedict - the extraordinary partnership and unlikely friendship between First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and civil rights activist Mary McLeod Bethune.

Hello Beautiful by Ann Napolitano - An exquisite homage to Louisa May Alcott’s timeless classic Little Women, Hello Beautiful is a profoundly moving portrait of what is possible when we choose to love someone not in spite of who they are, but because of it.

Kindred by Octavia Butler - A time-travel classic whose Black female hero is pulled through time to face the horrors of American slavery and explores the impacts of racism, sexism, and white supremacy then and now.

Learned by Heart by Emma Donoghue - Based on Anne Lister’s journals, the story of Eliza Raine, from India to England at age six, and Anne Lister, a brilliant, troublesome tomboy, who meet at the Manor School for young ladies in York in 1805 when they are both fourteen.
**The Sun Walks Down by Fiona McFarland** - Set in 1883 in the South Australian outback, a 6-year-old boy goes missing during a dust storm and the entire community is caught up in the search for him.

**Tom Lake by Ann Patchett** - a meditation on youthful love, married love, and the lives parents have led before their children were born

**NONFICTION**

**The Moment of Lift: How Empowering Women Change the World by Melinda Gates** - The stories of the inspiring people Gates has met through her work all over the world digs into the data and powerfully illustrates issues that need our attention—from child marriage to gender inequity in the workplace.

**Dearly: New Poems by Margaret Atwood** - In her first collection of poetry in over a decade, Atwood addresses themes such as love, loss, the passage of time, the nature of nature and - zombies.