

WHAT'S ON YOUR NIGHTSTAND

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

JUNE 2014

At which we talked about :

Whether or not alerting readers that a book has a twist is a spoiler

Is illustration art? Should art always push boundaries?

Complexities of race

FICTION

Americanah – Chimanda Ngoze Adichie -A powerful, tender story of race and identity

All the Light We Cannot See – Anthony Doerr –secret radio broadcasts, a cursed diamond, a soldier's deepest doubts—the lives of a blind French girl and a Hitler Youth converge

Carthage –Joyce Carol Oates -A young girl's disappearance rocks a community and a family

Constellation of Vital Phenomena – Anthony Marra -authentic, heartbreaking tale of intertwining relationships during wartime in Chechnya

The Expats – Chris Pavone -A gripping spy drama and an artful study of the sometimes cat-and-mouse game of marriage

Half Broken Things – Morag Joss - a haunting exploration of love and our need for it

Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet – Jamie Ford-father/son conflicts, internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, and the depths and longing of love

Winter of the World – Ken Follett- five interrelated families enter a time of enormous social, political, and economic turmoil beginning with the rise of the Third Reich to the Cold War. 2nd book in Century Trilogy series

Lighter Fiction authors:

Julia Spencer Fleming

Sophie Hannah

Sue Grafton

NONFICTION

A Rage to Live: Richard and Isabelle Burton – Mary S. Lovell-the Burtons traveled and experienced the world, from diplomatic postings in Brazil and Africa to hair-raising adventures in the Syrian desert

American Mirror – Life and Art of Norman Rockwell – Deborah Solomon- spirited and authoritative biography of the painter who provided twentieth-century America with a defining image of itself.

Book of Woe: The DSM and the Unmaking of Psychiatry – Gary Greenberg – an account of the history behind the DSM, which has grown from pamphlet-sized to encyclopedic and of the deeply flawed process by which the DSM-5 has been revised, is both riveting and disturbing

The Future of the Mind – Michio Kaku -tackling the most fascinating and complex object in the known universe: *the human brain*.

George Eliot and her World – Marghanita Laski

Townie – Andre Dubus -Long before he became the highly acclaimed author Dubus shuffled and punched his way through a childhood and youth full of dysfunction, desperation, and determination