

WHAT'S ON YOUR NIGHTSTAND

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS MAY 2014

At which we talked about fate, unreliable narrators, the classics – are they wasted on the young? WWI (art, feminism, terror), and modern wars – how to find a new “normal” amid the devastation and terror of war’s aftermath, and.. then?
Then there’s the return home

FICTION

Radiance of tomorrow – Ishmael Bael : the damaged survivors of war return home in Sierra Leone.

Regeneration Trilogy – Pat Barker: detailing the psychological consequences of trench warfare during the Great War.

Fall of Giants – Ken Follett : five interrelated families move through the momentous dramas of the First World War, the Russian Revolution, and the struggle for women’s suffrage.

Veronica – Mary Gaitskill : narrated over the course of a single day by an ailing former fashion model now cleaning offices for a living, who ruminates on her glamorous youth.

Signature of All Things – Elizabeth Gilbert: the story of a 19th century scholar who embarks on an odyssey that takes her from Tahiti to Holland, during which she learns much about the ways of the world and her own complicated nature.

The Headmaster’s Wife – Thomas Christopher Greene : A tightly woven, atmospheric thriller about a New England academic whose life goes off the rails (2014 Bookstock author)

Blood Sisters – Nancy Heffernan : the status of women in colonial America and the perils they faced which may or may not explain the dark deeds of these two sisters. (e-book)

Last Summer – Judith Kinghorn : An enchanting story of love and war, and the years beyond

NONFICTION

Out of the Woods – Lynn Darling: one woman learns to navigate—literally and metaphorically—the uneven course of life

Beatrix Potter – Linda Lear: special attention is paid to the places that provided the settings for Potter's books and for her real-life evolution as a shrewd businesswoman and ardent preservationist of the rural landscape of her beloved Lake District