

## What's On Your Nightstand Book Recommendations - February 2024

### FICTION

**Heaven and Earth Grocery Store** by James McBride - a novel about small-town secrets and the people who keep them

**Fourteen Days** edited by Margaret Atwood and Douglas Preston - One week into the pandemic shutdown, tenants of a Lower East Side neglected apartment building have begun to gather on the rooftop and tell stories.

**Martyr** by Kaveh Akbar - Cyrus Shams is a young man grappling with an inheritance of violence and loss and whose obsession with martyrs leads him to examine the mysteries of his past.

**North Woods** by Daniel Mason - A sweeping novel about a single house in the woods of New England, told through the lives of those who inhabit it across the centuries

**What You are Looking for is in the Library** by Michiko Aoyama - A librarian is able to sense exactly what each visitor to her library is searching for and provide just the book recommendation to help them find it.

**Wild and Distant Seas** by Tara Karr Roberts - What stories do we inherit and how much can we alter the narrative of our lives and of those of our loved ones? And when is it time to let go? At its heart, this is a story of loss, redemption, tenacity, and hope.

**Women Talking** by Miriam Toews - In a Mennonite community, girls and women were drugged unconscious and assaulted in the night by "ghosts" or "demons" only to find the attackers were actually men of their community. Eight women have come together to debate, on behalf of all the women and children in the community, whether to stay or leave. Based on true events

### NON FICTION

**A Dog's Life** by Peter Mayle - "Boy" is Mayle's adopted dog of uncertain origins. Boy narrates this irresistible "memoir" that proves that the best vantage point for observing life may well be on all fours.

**A Dog Walks into a Nursing Home: Lessons in the Good Life from an Unlikely Teacher** by Sue Halpern - A layabout mutt turned therapy dog leads her owner to a new understanding of the good life.

**The Cost of Discipleship** by Dietrich Bonhoeffer - a compelling statement of the demands of sacrifice and ethical consistency from a man whose life and thought were exemplary articulations of a new type of leadership inspired by the Gospel, and imbued with the spirit of Christian humanism and a creative sense of civic duty

**When Women were Birds** by Terry Tempest Williams - A kaleidoscope that keeps turning around the question "What does it mean to have a voice?"

### RECOMMENDED - Not fully discussed

**A Velocity of Being: Letters to a Young Reader** edited by Maria Popova - Writers, artists, scientists, entrepreneurs, and philosophers reflect on the joys of reading, how books broaden and deepen human experience, and the ways in which the written word has formed their own character. On the page facing each letter is an illustration by a celebrated illustrator or graphic artist presenting that artist's visual response.

