

What's On Your Nightstand
Books Discussed - April 2024

FICTION



Afterlife by Julia Alvarez - In this novel big questions are asked: What do we owe those in crisis? How do we live in a broken world without losing faith in each other? How do we handle grief?



Followed by a Lark by Helen Humphreys - A fresh view of Henry David Thoreau, imagining his robust inner life (*Reader thought it a bit too much Thoreau.*)

Glowrushes by Roberto Piumini, translated by Leah Janeczko - A fable in which art and imagination combine to bring beauty to a tragic situation



Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell - Fictional account of the playwright's family trying to survive during the 1580's Black Death plague

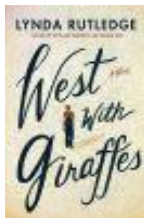
Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride - Small town secrets, how much the people who live on the margins of white Christian America struggle, and what they must do to survive



James by Percival Everett - A reimagining of Twain's *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* told from the enslaved Jim's point of view

The Lost Garden by Helen Humphreys - Set in early 1941 Britain, a young female gardener is chosen to head The Land Army, a group of women who are tasked to plant food crops for the war effort. They are forever changed.

A Month in the Country by J.L. Carr - After the Great War, a shell-shocked survivor of the conflict is assigned to a rural community to uncover and restore a medieval wall painting all of which helps to heal the wounds in his heart.



West With Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge - based on a true story, two giraffes who are being sent to The San Diego Zoo from Europe in 1938. This is their journey in a custom made truck across America.

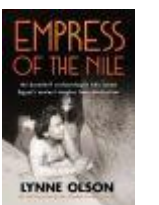
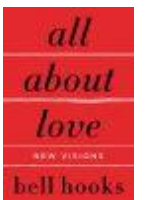
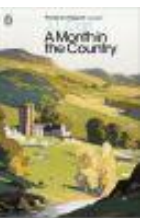
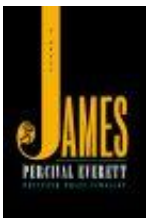
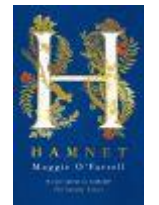
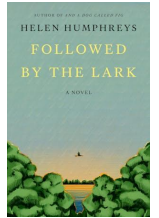
NONFICTION

All About Love by belle hooks - Hooks asks "What is Love" and her answers strike at both the mind and heart



Comfort of Crows: A Backyard Year by Margaret Renkl - Following the creatures and plants in her backyard over the course of a year...a portrait of joy and grief

Empress of the Nile: The Daredevil Archaeologist who Saved Egypt's Ancient Temples from Destruction by Lynn Olson - Christiane Desroches-Noblecourt led the international effort to save ancient Egyptian temples from the floodwaters of the Aswan Dam.



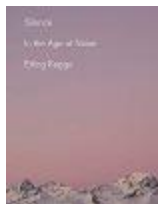


Jane Kenyon: The Making of a Poet by Dana Greene - Biography of the elusive poet and the unquiet life that shaped her art

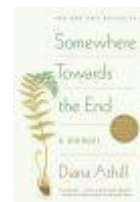
The Lost Pianos of Siberia by Sophy Roberts - The ultimate quest for the oddest objects - pianos - in the most unlikely place - Siberia



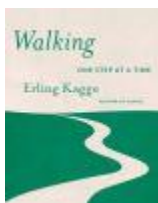
Silence in the Age of Noise by Erling Kagge - Kagge shows us what silence is, where it can be found, and why it is now more important than ever.



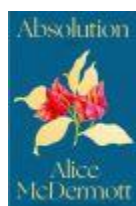
Somewhere Towards the End: A Memoir by Diana Athill - The 91-year-old author writes candidly on the condition of being old.



Walking: One Step at a Time by Erling Kagge - An homage to walking...why do we walk? Where do we walk from? What is our destination?



Walking Home: A Poet's Journey by Simon Armitage - Walking the equivalent of the Appalachian Trail in England, Armitage gives poetry readings in exchange for bed and board and shares his adventures, from growling dogs, mean looking cows to the generosity of strangers.



Recommended for a One-Off Discussion
Absolution by Alice McDermott