What’s On Your Nightstand
Book Recommendations - March 2024

FICTION

Architect’s Apprentice by Elif Shafek - An epic tale including swashbuckling soldiers, mysterious Gypsies, and more than a few guileless courtesans spanning nearly a century in the life of the Ottoman Empire

Followed by the Lark by Helen Humphreys - Inspired by the life, letters, and diaries of Henry David Thoreau, the story reveals how strikingly similar the concerns of the early nineteenth century are to our own.

Held by Anne Michaels - An intensely beautiful narrative spanning four generations of connections and consequences that ignite and reignite as the century unfolds

Horse by Geraldine Brooks - A discarded painting in a junk pile, a skeleton in an attic, and the greatest racehorse in American history: From these strands, Brooks braids a sweeping story of spirit, obsession, and injustice across American history.

Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt - What does a misanthropic octopus have in common with Tova, a widowed aquarium employee? Not much, until a friendship develops following a daring tank rescue.

The Lioness by Chris Bohjalian - A luxurious African safari turns deadly for a Hollywood starlet and her entourage in this historical thriller.

Lady Tan’s Circle of Women by Lisa See - An historical novel inspired by the true story of a female physician in 15th-century China

Out of the Clear Blue Sky by Kristan Higgins - A funny and surprising novel about losing it all . . . and getting back more than you ever expected

The Red House Mystery by A. A. Milne - Milne’s only mystery novel, the book is written in the style of a “locked room/Sherlock Holmesian” murder which takes place during a house party at an English country house.

Still Life by Sarah Widman - The story celebrates the myriad ways love is expressed and families are formed.

This is Happiness by Niall Williams - An intricately observed portrait of a community, its idiosyncrasies and traditions, its paradoxes and inanities, its failures and triumphs

Ship of Brides by Jojo Moyes - A post-WWII story of the war brides who crossed the seas by the thousands to face their unknown futures

West With Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge - Based on real events, the story of two giraffes who miraculously survive both a hurricane while crossing the Atlantic and the twelve-day journey to the San Diego Zoo
NONFICTION

**Between Two Kingdoms by Suleika Jaouad** - A profound chronicle of survivorship and a fierce, tender, and inspiring exploration of what it means to begin again.

**Portrait of a Turkish Family by Irfan Orga** - Describes in chilling, yet affectionate, detail the disintegration of a wealthy Ottoman family, both financially and emotionally in the last days of the Ottoman Empire.

OTHER

**American Symphony** - An intimate documentary in which musician Jon Batiste attempts to compose a symphony while his wife, Suleika Jaouad, undergoes chemotherapy.