What's On Your Nightstand
Book Discussions - May 2024

FICTION

*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.

Horse by Geraldine Brooks Based on the remarkable true story of the record-breaking thoroughbred Lexington, Horse is a novel of art and science, love and obsession, and our unfinished reckoning with racism.

The Last Animal by Ramona Ausubel Two teenage sisters never imagined their summer vacation would be spent in the Arctic, tagging along on their mother’s scientific expedition. But there’s a lot about their lives lately that hasn’t been going as planned.

Nonfiction: a Novel by Julie Myerson Two parents stand by powerlessly as their only child seems intent on destroying herself.

Shuggie Bain by Douglas Stewart A heartbreaking story of addiction, sexuality, and love, truly an epic portrayal of a working-class family.

NONFICTION

**Chasing Beauty: the Life of Isabella Stewart Gardner by Natalie Dylstra** Creator of one of America’s most stunning museums, an American original whose own life was remade by art.

**Get the Picture: A Mind-Bending Journey among the Inspired Artists and Obsessive Art Friends Who Taught Me How to See by Bianka Bosker** On understanding why art matters and how to engage with it more deeply.

Growing Up by Russell Baker Pulitzer Prize-winning autobiography about growing up in America during the Great Depression.

How the Irish Saved Civilization: The Untold Story of Ireland’s Heroic Role From the Fall of Rome to the Rise of Medieval Europe by Thomas Cahill The story of Ireland’s role in maintaining Western culture while the Dark Ages settled on Europe.

**The Spy and the Traitor: The Greatest Espionage Story of the Cold War by Ben Macintyre** Brings readers deep into a world of treachery and betrayal, where the lines bleed between the personal and the professional, and one man’s hatred of communism had the power to change the future of nations.

Different but as compelling . . .

Masterpiece Theatre: Little Bird In 1968, five-year-old Bezhig Little Bird was forcibly removed from Long Pine Reserve and adopted into a Jewish family in Montreal, and renamed Esther Rosenblum. Eighteen years later, she embarks on a journey to unravel her history. Through this epic journey of connection and self-discovery, Bezhig Little Bird begins to find her lost family and put the pieces of her fragmented past back together.

*Also suggested: The Color of Water and Nightwatch both by James McBride
**Highly Recommended*