

## 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 Bianca 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

