

What's On Your Nightstand

Book Discussion – July 2024



FICTION

Clear by Carys Davies - The story of a minister dispatched to a remote island to “clear” its last remaining inhabitant—a tale of resilience, change, the power of language and hope

Ernest Hemingway - A deep dive into his work with some favorites being: *Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber*, *Snows of Kilimanjaro*, *For Whom The Bell Tolls* and *Farewell to Arms*.



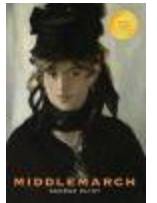
Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi - The story of two half-sisters, separated by forces beyond their control (one sold into slavery, the other married to a British slaver) traces the generations of family who follow.

Kairos by Jenny Erpenbeck - A destructive affair between a young woman and an older man in 1980s East Berlin, embodying East Germany’s crushed idealism (International Booker Prize 2024 winner)



The Measure by Nikki Erlick - One day every person in the world finds a small wooden box outside their door. Inside is the answer to the exact number of years they will live. What does one do with that information? Should it be opened?

Middlemarch by George Eliot - A penetrating analysis of the life of an English provincial town during the time of social unrest and illuminates the condition of English life in the mid-nineteenth century



Whale Fall by Elizabeth O'Connor - The portrait of a community and a woman on the precipice, forced to confront an outside world that seems to be closing in on them

NONFICTION

American Midnight - The Great War, a Violent Peace, and Democracy's Forgotten Crisis by Adam Hochschild - An assessment of the overlooked but startlingly resonant period between World War I and the Roaring Twenties, when the foundations of American democracy were threatened by war, pandemic, and violence fueled by battles over race, immigration, and the rights of labor





Circle of Sawdust: a Circus Memoir of Mud, Myth, Mirth, Mayhem and Magic by Rob Mermin - The author writes about the precarious life of a creative artist, the ups and downs of taking risks, and the idealistic struggle to hold onto a dream.

Salmon Wars: The Dark Underbelly of our Favorite Fish by Catherine Collins - We are told salmon is healthy and environmentally friendly. The reality is disturbingly different.



Movies Discussed:

Hulu - I Am Your Man - In order to obtain research funding, a scientist participates in a 3 week experiment in which she lives with a humanoid robot created solely to make her happy

