

What's On Your Nightstand Book Discussion – August 2024

FICTION

Fox Wife by Yangtze Choo - A novel about old loves and second chances, the depths of maternal love, and ancient folktales that may very well be true

Long Island by Colm Toibin - Confronted with her husband's betrayal, Eillis goes home to Ireland to contemplate and decide what the rest of her life should hold.

Still Life by Sarah Winman - An unlikely group of friends – a young English soldier, an aging art historian, a pub owner, a pianist, and more – share bighearted ideas about friendship, love, art, and community.

This Strange Eventful History by Claire Messud - A family story of a patriarch and his wife whose myth of perfect love sustains them and stifles their children

Someone Else's Shoes by Jojo Moyes - Nisha Cantor lives the globetrotting life of the seriously wealthy until her husband announces a divorce and cuts her off. She must scramble to cope and doesn't even have the shoes she was, until a moment ago, standing in.

NONFICTION

How To Say Babylon by Safiya Sinclair - Story of the author's struggle to break free of her rigid Rastafarian upbringing, ruled by her father's strict patriarchal views

And I Don't Want to Live This Life: A Mother's Story of Her Daughter's Murder by Deborah Spungen - In 1978, rocker Sid Vicious stabbed Nancy Spungen to death.

Circle of Sawdust: A Circus Memoir of Mud, Myth, Mirth, Mayhem and Magic by Rob Mermin - Personal story of the wild characters, fascinating personalities, remarkable histories, and behind-the-scenes world of traditional traveling circuses

Demon of Unrest: A Saga of Hubris, Heartbreak, and Heroism at the Dawn of the Civil War by Erik Larson - A gripping account of the chaotic months between Lincoln's election and the Confederacy's shelling of Sumter

A Swim in a Pond in the Rain: In Which Four Russians Give a Master Class on Writing, Reading, and Life by George Saunders - Paired with iconic short stories by Chekhov, Turgenev, Tolstoy, and Gogol, the seven essays in this book are intended for anyone interested in how fiction works and why it's more relevant than ever in these turbulent times.

Other

Book reviews: Youtube: Supposedly fun https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GaiKqk3SN_I

The Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest <https://www.bulwer-lytton.com/2024>

