

OLLI READS

OLLI Reads Presents

The Women of the Copper Country

By Mary Doria Russell

Friday, March 18, 2022

10:00am – 11:30am

Since 2007, the Great Michigan Read, Michigan Humanities' signature program, has bridged communities across the state with Michigan-based fiction and non-fiction titles that spark conversation and understanding of diverse perspectives. The 2021-2022 title, selected by six regional selection committees representing all corners of the state, is *The Women of the Copper Country* by Mary Doria Russell. Once again OLLI Reads is proud to have been chosen as a partner in this endeavor. Since the Great Michigan Read is also designed to bring communities together, OLLI Reads will be working with two fabulous partners: Eastern Michigan University's Honor College and the Ypsilanti District Library.

The Women of the Copper Country is a fictionalized history of the 1913 copper miners' strike in Calumet in the Upper Peninsula. Following the story of 25 year old strike leader, Anna "Big Annie" Klobuchar Clemenc, Russell draws attention to the women and the immigrants who risked their lives to fight unregulated capitalist exploitation.

Widely praised for meticulous research, fine prose, and the compelling narrative drive of her stories, Mary Doria Russell is the award-winning author of seven bestselling novels, including the science fiction classics *The Sparrow* and *Children of God*; the World War II thriller, *A Thread of Grace*; and a political romance set in 1921 Cairo called *Dreamers of the Day*. With her novels *Doc* and *Epitaph*, Russell has redefined two towering figures of the American West: the lawman Wyatt Earp and the dental surgeon Doc Holliday.

Mary Doria Russell was born in the Chicago suburbs to a military family. She received her B.A. in Cultural Anthropology at the University of Illinois- Urbana-Champaign; her M.A. in Social Anthropology at

Northeastern University, Boston; and her Ph.D. in Biological Anthropology at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She lives in Cleveland, Ohio.

The activities surrounding this event will begin with a discussion of Mary Doria Russell's novel on Friday March 18, 2022 at 10 AM facilitated by the students and faculty of EMU's Honors College.

Following that event will be a panel discussion focusing on the themes raised by the novel - feminism, union organization, immigrants rights, and the history of the Upper Peninsula Community in which the novel is set.

In addition, the Ypsilanti District Library will be sponsoring events to enrich our understanding these issues.

More information on these events will be forthcoming.