



SEPTEMBER 2020

Tana Williams

Since our two grandchildren are continuing with virtual learning in the Paradise Valley Schools in Phoenix, I have been helping out. Our 7-year-old granddaughter has been reading through *The Magic Tree House* series. Sometimes she reads and sometimes I read. It's great fun experiencing Jack and Annie on these different adventures through time. Our grandson is going through *The Wings of Fire* series. These books deal with young dragons fulfilling prophecies in a fantasy world.

I just finished reading *Pure Land; A True Story of Three Lives, Three Cultures*, and *The Search for Heaven on Earth* by Annette McGivney. The author is a local Flagstaff author who also teaches at NAU. I am presently reading *The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead, 2020 Pulitzer Prize winner for fiction. This story is based loosely on a reform school in Florida that existed for 111 years.

Thank you for putting this list together again for us. It's always fun to see what other readers are reading.

Kay Bork

My book recommendation is *This Tender Land* by Eric Kent Krueger; besides being an engrossing story, it transported me to another time and place (the Midwest during the Depression), which I very much needed.

Ken Bork

I have read many of Carl Hiaasen's books, and am a genuine fan -- BUT this new narrative, *Squeeze Me* (2020), strikes me as a literary and political masterpiece.

I won't take your time going through all the elements that resonated and impressed me, but the combination of humor, bizarre storyline, flow of the writing, and wonderful characters (Angie at the head) were delightful. The serious snide-ness of the on-target barbs about Mastodon, Casa Bellicosa, etc. & etc, were a potent combination of humor and 'enlightenment' about current absurdities. And, at the end, it was great to find Gov. 'Skink' Tyree and Trooper Jim Tile back 'doing their thing.'

Susan Buffum

I don't have kids or grandkids so I've been doing "adult" reading. My recent reads are *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins, *The Glass Hotel* by Emily St. John Mandel, *There, There* by Tommy Orange, *The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead, *Susan Sontag: Her Life and Work* by Ben Moser and *The Tea*

Rose by Jennifer Donnelly. I would recommend all of them. I'm also working my way through Louise Penny's mysteries and still have a way to go! They are always quick fun reads.

Pat Aires

I just finished reading *Olive, Again* by Elizabeth Strout. It's about Olive Kitteridge's life after the first book about her. She's quite a character!

I also just finished *Dutch House* by Ann Patchett. Ann is such a good writer. I couldn't help but get pulled into the lives of Maeve and Danny and how the big grand house affected their lives.

Jane Kelly

I'm reading *Are Men Necessary?* by Maureen Dowd. It's very funny.

Cheryl Kellogg

I'm currently reading *How to Be an Anti Racist* by Ibram X Kendi and soon will begin his previous book stamped from the beginning. These both were preceded by *White Fragility* by Robin Diangelo. Necessary reading for all of us who care about social justice.

I'm also participating in a book study discussion on Zoom, reading *Citizen- Faithful Discipleship in a Partisan World* by C. Andrew Doyle. (*This book is not available in the YLN.*)

For light reading, I'm into J.A. Jance and her Sheriff Joanna Brady mysteries!

AUGUST 2020

Caroline Rudat

With more time on my hands and no book clubs to attend, I started reading more of my books that I've collected over the years from book sales including Ken Follett's *Century Trilogy: The Fall of Giants, Winter of the World, and Edge of Eternity*. I enjoyed following the generations of families living in different countries and their unique perspectives of the events that took place throughout the 20th century. I also recently read *The Great Alone* by Kristin Hannah about a dysfunctional family. The father has been given a cabin and a piece of land from a soldier buddy who had died in the Vietnam War while they were held prisoners. The family moves once again into the wilds of Alaska. It's a wonderful story about a community coming together to help each other in times of need.

Linda Schermer

Hilary Mantel: Love her writing, now on 3rd and final book of her Cromwell trilogy, *The Mirror and the Light*. Human nature has not changed. Also *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi, fine writing, grim tale.

And, what I'm not reading:

I started Lawrence Wright's pandemic novel, *The End of October*, and I just could not continue during COVID times. I switched to *Apeirogon* by Colum McCann and think it a marvelous work.

Anne E. Hess

Every day three newspaper websites: *The Guardian, Los Angeles Times, Washington Post*. And most days also *New York Times*. That was true pre-pandemic as well. With the pandemic I've had difficulty getting into books. That may be, though, because I've been swamped by urgent projects. Looking forward to a lull . . .

Susan Cohen

Watership Down for the third time!

And a book by Louis Sachar called *Holes*.

And *Life as We Knew It* by Pfeffer. This one cuts very close to home!

All on Libby.

Tana Williams

What would we do without our books during this Covid19 period? I recently finished *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes. Set in a small Kentucky town in Depression-era America, the novel details the lives of five women who become traveling librarians, delivering books to the people of rural Kentucky. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt realized with the Depression, many people in the rural areas were unable to get books. Mrs. Roosevelt was responsible for initiating this program and this wonderful group of ladies. Sometimes the women were referred to as the pack-horse librarians of Kentucky.

Another historical fiction book that I've read during this period is *The Alice Network* by Kate Quinn. A female spy recruited to the real-life Alice Network in France during World War II and an unconventional American socialite searching for her cousin in 1947 are brought together in a mesmerizing story of courage and redemption.

I'll mention one more title that I recently enjoyed. *Remarkable Creatures* by Tracy Chevalier is the story of two historical figures from the 19th century: Mary Anning and her friend Elizabeth Philpot. While both women were knowledgeable fossil hunters and skilled at identifying ancient species, the real-life Mary was a pioneering figure in the world of paleontology.

During my 40+ year career, I was a school librarian. Not only was I always pushing books on my students, I am an avid reader. Even though I read all genres, I adore historical fiction. I am able to read a wonderfully embellished narrative and learn something at the same time.

Lori Johnston

I download audiobooks to Libby, and I just finished *The Other Einstein* by Marie Benedict, which I found most interesting. It's a fictional historical novel, leading to serious musings.

Kathy Wege

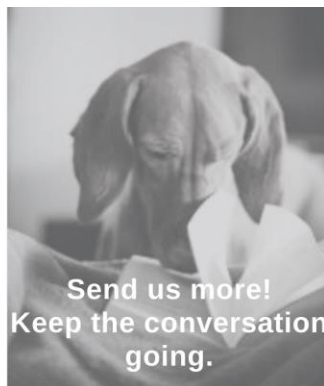
A book I recently read and loved was *The Heart's Invisible Furies* by John Boyne. Very well written and an interesting story. The author is also known for *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*. I also liked *The Starless Sea* by Erin Morgenstern. She also wrote *The Night Circus* a few years ago which I also loved. *The Splendid and the Vile* was very timely and interesting - showing how a real leader handles a national crisis 😊. *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel, written a few years ago is scary and also timely right now as it also deals with a pandemic. Her new book *The Glass Hotel* was well written but I didn't enjoy it as much as *Station Eleven*.

Carole Bell

The Sirens of Oak Creek by Robert Louis DeMayo

Olive Again by Elizabeth Strout

A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles



Send us more!
Keep the conversation
going.