



A reader from Granby read *Wicked Business* by Janet Evanovich: "It was funny, confusing at times, but it was set in Salem Massachusetts. Talked a lot about Boston and important places."

A reader from Beverly read *Sam* by Allegra Goodman: "I enjoyed it, and it was fun to read the references to downtown Beverly (where we live), and the greater North Shore area. I'm inspired to check out the rocks up in Gloucester where she did her climbing."

A reader from Fall River read *Home Town* by Tracy Kidder: "I enjoyed reading this nonfiction book about the town I grew up in. The different people Tracy Kidder chose to spotlight were a good representation of the wide variety of characters that make up Northampton. I remembered every building, street, and landmark he mentioned."

A reader from Wakefield read *The Ice Storm* by Rick Moody: "This book was weirdly interesting. I had trouble getting into it, but then I started feeling more invested in the stories of these characters and 2 families. I wish the ending was stronger. I may check out the movie from 1997 now."

A reader from Weymouth read *The identicals* by Elin hilderbrand: "Kind of a goopy read about identical twins on 2 different islands 11 miles apart, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. But a typical hilderbrand novel, lots of family angst and renewal."

A reader from Lancaster read *The girl from widow hills* by Megan Miranda: "WHAT A CAPTIVATING READ. I finished it in one day. It had twists and turns throughout and then when you think everything is over they hit you with a ONE EIGHTY in the last 10 pages that you don't see coming. I couldn't put it down!"

A reader from East Sandwich read *Blackbird House* by Alice Hoffman: "This book is a collection of stories/vignettes about a house on Cape Cod over a span of 200 years. I found each vignette to be so captivating, I could read a whole novel about each one, but maybe that's why I liked it so much. There was so much detail in each and every story!"

A reader from WORCESTER read *ERIN'S CHILDREN* by EILEEN O'FINLAN: "Historical fiction is my favorite genre and this book represents the best research and writing of this group. It was especially enjoyable to me as it was set in Worcester, MA, where I have been a lifelong resident."

A reader from Amherst read *Mexican Gothic* by Silvia Moreno-Garcia: "Hailing from Mexico City myself, it is refreshing to read fiction written in English about mid-century Mexican life that largely avoids the common tropes. This books feels like a literary exercise and for the most part succeeds in bringing its two main themes together: Gothic literature and a distinct Mexican setting."

A reader from Sandwich read *Cape Cod Passage* by Jim Coogan: "A representative treasury of the geography, history, inhabitants, iconic events and the human interest contributions of Sandwich residents through the centuries. An enjoyable read filled with interesting stories about Sandwich residents and their legacies."

A reader from Marblehead read *Murder in the Marsh* by Kevin Carey: "'Some beasts are human,' it reads on the cover of this book. This story of crime and humanity is set in my hometown of Revere, Massachusetts."

A reader from Erving read *Butler Co PA Celebrates it's Bicentennial* by Staff of Butler Eagle Newspaper: "I learned facts about the county that I never knew while growing up & living in the area & also some famous & infamous people of the region. Home of the Jeep used in WW II, the Oil boom, history of the steel industry in the area, the agricultural industry, and the background of the settlers to the region. Most of the original settlers were of German and Irish descent & eventually the migration of the African-Americans from the South to work in the mills. More reading to be done about facts unknown to me before picking up this book."

A reader from Harwich read *The Hollow* by Nicole Barrell: "A mystery about a girl who drums up memories of the past in her hometown on Cape Cod - fast and thrilling."

A reader from Beverly read *Nightbird* by Alice Hoffman: "I loved this book. Coming of age, Magic, climate awareness, best friends. Easy read-great for bedtime."

A reader from HALIFAX read *Writers & Lovers* by Lily King: "I really enjoyed this book. It was somewhat of a coming of age book, but not until your thirties. It also had a great positive 'don't give up on your dreams' message."

A reader from Danvers read *We Were Liars* by E. Lockhart: "I really enjoyed this book, especially the ending."

A reader from Braintree read *One True Loves* by Taylor Jenkins Reid: "A great plot twist romance novel that makes a person be grateful you can have more than 1 love in your life but then you also have to question the life you want to create for the future with that love."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* by Holly Jackson: "Set in my home state of Connecticut, *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* is a page-turning, pulse-pounding, outright addictive whodunnit in which a high school senior upends her good-girl persona in favor of digging into the truth behind a former classmate's murder. I couldn't put this down and can't wait to read the next book in the trilogy."

A reader from Braintree read *Park Avenue Stories* by Raymond C. Shea: "I grew up in a suburb of Rochester NY, and worked near the trendy urban section of the city highlighted in this book of six short stories. Plotlines and themes here are varied, though none are a love letter to the neighborhood. Did get a kick out of recognizing various landmarks and street names mentioned."

A reader from Yarmouth Port read *Norumbega Park in totem pole ballroom* by Clara, Silverstein and Sarah Leavitt Goldberg: "Pure nostalgia."

A reader from Beverly read *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng: "I liked the way the story followed several Characters and how they overlap and build, offering different perspectives in the same environment and situations."

A reader from Wilmington read *Pleasure Island (2009)* by Robert McLaughlin: "While working at this office park in Wakefield, MA I have been told that this used to been an amusement park. Lo & behold, I came across this book about the entire history/background of how this site came to be and apparently many talent/celebs from Disneyland of old actually created the site and it operated from 1959 through 1969. Completely fascinating!"

A reader from hampden read *the wartime sisters* by lynda cohen loigman: "Good book. focused on the lives of 2 sisters during wwII. the setting was in springfield ma, at the springfield armory."

A reader from Georgetown read *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne: "Classic, about time I actually read it."

A reader from Swansea read *Dorothy Q together with "The Ballad of the Boston Tea Party" and "Grandmother's Story of Bunker Bill Battle:* by Oliver Wendall Holmes: "This title has been on my TBR list forever! I was interested in the Bunker Hill Battle poem, but all three were wonderful. I quick, unique look into the battles and history of Boston, and the American Rev."

A reader from Orange read *Death in the Off Season* by Francine Matthews: "At first I thought it dragged a little but then there were twists I didn't see coming (and one that I did). Overall I enjoyed it and may read the next in the series."

A reader from Northborough read *Writers and Lovers* by Lily King: "Casey was a very honest and refreshing character. I was rooting for her all the way through the book! Loved it!"

A reader from STONEHAM read *Hester* by Laurie Lico Albanese: "I enjoyed this novel, which imagines a fictional woman to serve as the inspiration for Hester Prynne in Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*. The

exploration of women and people of color in 19th century Salem, MA was well integrated and I enjoyed seeing real Salem institutions, like East India Marine Hall!”

A reader from Attleboro read *Finding Me* by Viola Davis: “I lived in Ri until I was a young adult so was drawn to read Viola’s book about growing up in Central Falls RI. To say she had a difficult start in life is certainly an understatement. To see what she has gone on to accomplish in her adult life is remarkable.”

A reader from Rockland read *Double Shifting* by Michaela Grey: “This was a slow burn hockey romance set in Boston. I enjoyed it, but the writing could have been better.”

A reader from Yarmouth Port read *Helltown The Untold Story of a Serial Killer on Cape Cod* by Casey Sherman: “Detailed description of serial murderer Tony Costa and how he was caught along with Kurt Vonnegut trying to match Norman Mailer's success.”

A reader from Shutesbury read *Rough Sleepers* by Tracy Kidder: “Author Tracy Kidder follows the life and career of Dr. Jim O’Connell who administers human kindness and medicine to people in the most desperate of circumstances, ‘rough sleeping,’ on the streets of Boston.”

A reader from Hampden read *The Wartime Sisters* by Lynda Cohen Loigman: “It was very well written.”

A reader from Leominster read *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri: “I was intrigued by the journey and relationships of the Ganguli family. Quiet and well-written novel.”

A reader from Amesbury read *The Chain* by Adrian McKinty: “I thought it was poorly written and the plot was overly convoluted. It was also clear that the author wasn’t actually that familiar with the area that he was writing about.”

A reader from Wrentham read *Painting the Light* by Sally Cabot Gunning: “Enjoyed this as I have enjoyed Sally Cabot Gunning’s other titles. It takes place on Martha’s Vineyard in Massachusetts and I am from Massachusetts.”

A reader from Brookline read *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry* by Gabrielle Zevin: “What a delicious fast read—an unabashed love letter to readers and a wink at all the plot tricks it knows will get us hooked.”

A reader from Milford read *Yes Please* by Amy Poehler: “I ‘cheated’ and read a memoir by Amy Poehler. I knew she was born in Massachusetts, so I figured some of it must take place here! Surprisingly, some of the funniest parts of the book are stories about what other people did or said.”

A reader from Amherst read *The House in the Pines* by Ana Reyes: “Story takes place in the Pittsfield area of Western Massachusetts. It’s a mystery/thriller that keeps you guessing the whole time. Being from that area I found the author’s descriptions of the locale very accurate. A quick, enjoyable read.”

A reader from Boylston read *Morningstar: Growing Up With Books* by Ann Hood: “Although Ann Hood is 14 years older than me, her memories of growing up in our small hometown of West Warwick, Rhode Island are in many ways like mine. She relates each chapter to a book she has read and there are now more that I have added to my list because of it. Great little book!”

A reader from Belchertown read *Middletown, America* by Gail Sheehy: “I grew up in Neptune, NJ very close to Middletown. Middletown had more victims of 9/11 in the World Trade Centers than any other town. The book tells the story of several people, mostly widows, in the town on Sept 11 and follows

their grieving for 2 years. It was a sobering reminder of that event that was difficult to be forced to remember, but an excellent description of both the personal and collective trauma of 9/11.”

A reader from Melrose read *Fanny: A Fiction* by Edmund White: “I was suddenly surprised to find Englishwomen visiting my hometown of Cincinnati in the 1820s in this work of historical fiction. The narrator was not impressed by what was (truly) called Porkopolis at that time; her satirical comments were a riot.”

A reader from Beverly read *The White Album* by Joan Didion: “I liked these essays: evocative of a place and time that formed my childhood and early adolescence. She's quietly and sharply witty; makes finely honed observations of life around her; she exhibits atypical interest in the seemingly ordinary and then draws prescient conclusions from her observations. The subjects and her analyses have aged quite well.”

A reader from Braintree read *Dirtbag, Massachusetts* by Isaac Fitzgerald: “I was not familiar with the author before reading this memoir but it was a great read. His childhood took place in Massachusetts which is where the title came from, but the book has accounts from California and New York as well.”

A reader from Methuen read *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott: “I enjoyed this classic very much! A heartwarming story that's perfect to read inside on a cold winters day.”

A reader from Attleboro read *The Boston Girl* by Anita Diamant: “I thought the book was an eye opener to see what woman had to endure back in the early 1900 compared to today and how they were able to help each other to achieve what they wanted.”

A reader from Wilmington read *The Boston Girl* by Anita Diamant: “A quick, enjoyable read, although I found the first half to be more interesting than the second. It was a good companion book to one I read set in my actual hometown - Prohibition Wine, about a Jewish immigrant to Wilmington.”

A reader from NORTHAMPTON read *Pay The Piper* by Jane Yolen and Adam Yolen: “Interesting modern retelling of the Pied Piper.”

A reader from Braintree read *That Old Cape Magic* by Richard Russo: “A story of family, relationships within them and memories they provoke along the path of childhood to adulthood . How one memory can trigger a lifetime of yearning to find what you are looking for!”

A reader from Beverly read *The Indifferent Stars Above: The Harrowing Saga of a Donner Party Bride* by Daniel James Brown: “I grew up learning about Patty Reed's doll in school and going to festivals in the summer at Donner summit. This was the first time I have read a historical fiction of the story that seeks to be as accurate as possible. The author also explores the psychological processes that the individuals might have been going through.”

A reader from Peabody read *The Nantucket Inn* by Pamela M Kelley: “It was light, warm, and engaging. Liked reading about familiar place.”

A reader from South Dennis read *The Finest Hours* by Michael J Tougas and Casey Sherman: “Living on Cape Cod this book gave me an even greater appreciation for the sea and those that risk their lives to save others. A seafaring rescue!”

A reader from Northfield read *Listen To Me* by Tess Gerritsen: “This is the latest book in the Rizzoli & Isles series. I really enjoy the mystery and especially the settings in and around Boston. Rizzoli's mother,

Angela, was the main character in this one. Her unofficial title of neighborhood watch person gets her into trouble.”

A reader from Shrewsbury read *The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry* by Gabrielle Zevin: “I don't think I would have finished this book had it not been for this reading challenge--I found the main character too awful to want to stick with, though the supporting cast more than made up for it--they were great (and it was a quick read). Something made me feel uncomfortable about the voice and the plot points (especially how Maya comes into A. J.'s life), but I didn't hate the book either.”

A reader from Salem read *The Lace Reader* by Brunonia Barry: “Lovely and captivating.”

A reader from Belchertown read *Mysteries of Belchertown's History: Investigating Stories from Our Town's Past* by Cliff McCarthy: “Belchertown, there's only one in the entire USA, was the sleep town next to the town I grew up in (Ludlow). Ever since moving here in the early '90s, I realized the town's uniqueness and the staunch Yankee-ism of the town folk. I read the book to learn more of the history of the town and came away pleased to know CHARACTER counts. Forget the cry of students saying, 'Nothing EVER happens here.' Belchertown has had its moments of fame, mystery, and conundrums. A great read for the cold winter nights.”

A reader from Plainville read *It Ends With Us* by Colleen Hoover: “I read this book in 3 days- couldn't put it down. Tough subject to read about but I thought she handled it well, drawing on her own experiences. And I was relieved it had a happy ending!”

A reader from SWANSEA read *It Ends with Us* by Colleen Hoover: “I wanted to read this because everyone had been reading and talking about it. It was just alright, to be honest. I liked that it was based on Boston though!”

A reader from Salem read *The Truth of All Things* by Kieran Shields: “As someone with a Portland history nerd for a mother it was really interesting to see that history come alive. Everything in the narrative, the crime, the characters, the settings was carefully chosen to explore Portland's unique history to its fullest.”

A reader from Tewksbury read *Master Thieves: The Boston Gangsters Who Pulled Off the World's Greatest Art Heist* by Stephen Kurkjian: “I have wanted to read this book for a long time, and it was great to finally dig into. Kurkjian takes a deep dive into the Gardner Museum heist, exploring possible suspects, motives, and theories. This is a great book for anyone interested in art heists and is a really good companion to the Netflix series ‘This is a Robbery,’ which Kurkjian is in. Although this book is set in different parts of Massachusetts, it does mention my hometown of Tewksbury, which was pretty cool.”

A reader from Enfield read *Dirtbag, Massachusetts* by Isaac Fitzgerald: “This was a deep and heartwrenching collection of essays that hit home a little more than I was expecting - fittingly, given the prompt is about hometowns and states. It's the hope of it all that kept me reading though. We can always change, we can always move forward, we just have to keep moving.”

A reader from Lompoc read *A Fair Maiden* by Joyce Carol Oates: “It was anxiety inducing mostly— but it was fun to recognize landmarks as I read about my home in the Jersey shore even as I am very far away from it. Definitely intense, I had to read the last half of the book in one sitting.”

A reader from Worcester read *The Handmaids Tale* by Margaret Atwood: "I loved this book and was struck by Atwood's imagined view of the future. Surprised at the 1985 publication date."

A reader from Leominster read *3000 Degrees The True Story of a Deadly Fire and the Men Who Fought It* by Sean Flynn: "The tragic true story of a deadly fire in Worcester, which is about 18 miles south of where I live. The book tells the stories of the men who fought the fire, and those who passed away, and their families. Very powerful and moving."

A reader from Melbourne read *All Good People Here* by Ashley Flowers: "All Good People is set in northern Indiana, where I'm originally from. The mystery is so-so, but the setting and characters depict the area and residents perfectly and made it fun for me to read."

A reader from Belchertown read "*You'll Like It Here*": *The Story of Donald Vitkus- Belchertown Patient #3394* by Ed Orzechowski: "This book was heartbreaking, eye opening and at times even funny! I had always wanted to know more about the State School Systems for people with disabilities and this gave a first hand depiction of what it was like."

A reader from Scituate read *Irish Sea Mousing in Scituate Mass 1969-1997* by Hawk Hickok Hickman: "This book of reminiscences by a prolific mosser presented a fascinating story of a bygone summer career of local boys to this recent Scituate transplant."

A reader from Wilmington read *Things You Save in a Fire* by Katherine Center: "I didn't know what to expect, but from page 1, I loved this book. Cassie, a female firefighter, is as tough as any man, and when she gets transferred to Massachusetts to help her ailing mother, she really has to prove herself. I didn't think this would have romance in it, but it did. I've decided that I want to read all of Katherine Center's books now!!! I loved the writing."

A reader from Quincy read *Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zevin: "I loved the premise of two of the games described. Completely blew my mind. Also, as a nongamer, the fact that I walked away with a deep appreciation for gamers and gaming that I didn't have before I think speaks to how this book was presented."

A reader from Reading read *Saco & Me* by Jay Snyder: "I had fun with this month's challenge searching for a book set in my hometown/state. I was astonished to locate one not only set in coastal southern Maine but the author lived two houses down from my childhood home on Weymouth Street! It was so fun to read of his Saco adventures in the 50s and 60s and what life was like a few decades before I arrived there. It was easy to visualize the locales he described, Burns School, Rapid Rays, Garsides, the Mutual Theater, because I visited them as a child too! In addition to nostalgia, we even shared across the street neighbors and family friends. Super fun read that I would never have found without this challenge."

A reader from Weymouth read *Massachusetts What's So Great About This State?* by Kate Boehm Jerome: "I learned a lot of cool fun facts about our state. I learned that the smiley face was invented in Worcester, Massachusetts and there is a skillet toss in Conway, Massachusetts."

A reader from Winthrop read *Very Cold People* by Sarah Manguso: "While very dark and sad, this book addresses a topic that's not discussed enough. Generational trauma will eat us at a societal level if silence is allowed."

A reader from Northampton read *The Final Girl Support Group* by Grady Hendrix: "A wild ride. More thriller than horror, especially compared to Hendrix's other works, this showed me how exciting the genre can be when the twists, turns, and sudden reveals are worked into the plot and earned, as opposed to blindsiding the reader with the most bizarre "twist" the author could come up with."

A reader from Northampton read *The Wife Upstairs* by Rachel Hawkins: "Not the best book I have ever read, but it was very surreal reading the names of little towns and neighborhoods that I am very familiar with being mentioned in a fictional story."

A reader from Northampton read *Detroit Hustle* by Amy Heimerl: "It's a book about buying a dilapidated home in Detroit and renovating it, something—as a native Michigander who spent many years working in Detroit as a legal aid lawyer—I often thought about doing myself. So it was easy to empathize with the writer and the material at first. But it was also a bit alienating; I left Detroit in 2005 and have no connection to all these whit yuppies moving in and transforming the city."

A reader from Lynnfield read *Exes & O's* by Amy Lea: "A laugh out loud, brilliant and enjoyable romance set in Boston."

A reader from Basking Ridge read *Are you their god? It's me, Margaret* by Judy Blume: "Still enjoyable. Looking forward to the movie."

A reader from Peabody read *The Nantucket neighbors* by Pamela M Kelley: "The characters are relatable and likable. Short and sweet storylines."

A reader from Amherst read *Amherst* by William Nicholson: "Enjoyed the references to areas and businesses around the town. I found the story not as interesting as I thought it would be and hard to follow, the ending didn't seem to fit."

A reader from Salem read *The Physick Book of Deliverance Dane* by Katherine Howe: "Great read for any New Englander looking to get more entranced in local history. Some parts of the book were difficult to follow but overall a wonderfully written story."

A reader from Brookline read *Touch and Go* by Lisa Gardner: "Rather generic suspense story about the kidnapping of a well-to-do family that is not as happy as they seem. Well done in its genre, but predictable."

A reader from Lowell read *Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zevin: "Utterly engrossing, this book is a tale of the beauty and frustration of close friendships, as well as a portrait of the artistic process. Set in Cambridge and then LA, the novel explores that particular time in late adolescence and early adulthood where we have yet to accumulate the wounds that make us who we will become and the world is still a blank slate upon which we might make our mark."

A reader from Bolton read *Shadows in Our Bones* by Tamara Merrill: "This is an engaging historical fiction book that juxtaposes a fictional story, taking place in current times with the controversial history of Malaga Island, which is off the coast of Maine."

A reader from Attleboro read *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri: "The Namesake is a story of a young family settling in America which is a difficult transmission from their native Calcutta. I highly recommend this book. A great read!"



A reader from Burlington read *Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zevin: "A wonderful rumination on friendship and gaming. I loved how Cambridge and LA were as much characters as the people were."

A reader from Essex read *The Change* by Kirsten Miller: "I really enjoyed this novel about three women with special abilities, who take matters into their own hands to punish those responsible for egregious actions when "the system" isn't working."

A reader from Middleboro read *The Storied Life of A J Fikry* by Gabrielle Zevin: "Even though it had some sad moments I really enjoyed the second chances theme running throughout it."

A reader from Wilbraham read *Dark Tide: the great Boston molasses flood of 1919* by Stephen Puleo: "An 80-ft. tank holding over 2 million gallons of molasses, located in the northern area of Boston, collapsed in 1919, killing 25 people and injuring over 100. It also destroyed the surrounding area. The company that owned the tank was sued and found liable. This was one of the first times a big business was held responsible for its negligence. The writing was excellent. The author focused on individual lives and families, which resulted in this non-fiction work reading like a novel. Recommended."

A reader from Plymouth read *Plymouth Undercover* by Pamela Kelley: "I enjoyed the story and did not figure out "who done it" until almost the end. The references to local restaurants/businesses felt a little clunky at times but I don't know if I would have felt that way if I wasn't already familiar with them. I liked the characters and would probably read future books in the series if it continues."

A reader from Beverly read *Spells of Lost Things* by Jenna Evans Welch: "It is a light read that doesn't demonize or over-exaggerate Salem's witchiness. It's a lovely story about breaking a curse and finding your home."

A reader from Hudson read *Chances are* by Richard Russo: "I enjoyed the book- It was an interesting read about friends from college who have a weekend away together on Martha Vineyard Ma. They have a reunion many years later still troubled by the events that happened many years before - Resulting in answers and unearthing secrets and family details."

A reader from Florence read *North to Market: Two Streets Two Centuries* by Lu Stone: "This book is about some of the streets in my hometown and how they came into being. It was so interesting to read about people who had surnames of some of the kids I grew up with."

A reader from Wilmington read *Wilmington* by Paul I chalifour: "Fantastic look at my hometown."

A reader from Salem read *Rough Sleepers* by Tracy Kidder: "Well written book on an incredibly important subject. Should be required reading."

A reader from Haverhill read *Before She Disappeared* by Lisa Gardner: "Before She Disappeared is a great, fast paced, page turner! Gardner pulls you in quick and leaves you wanting more."

A reader from Dracut read *The Woman in the Library* by Sulari Gentill: "Loved how this book was set in the Boston Public Library, where I first learned about the Mass Reading Challenge."

A reader from Saugus read *It Starts With Us* by Colleen Hoover: "The book was alright. It's hard to read a book when one of the characters is abusive. It almost felt like you were the abuse victim while reading it."

A reader from Bolton read *Tuesday Mooney Talks to Ghosts* by Kate Racculia: "A fun mystery/treasure hunt. Loved all the mentions of Boston landmarks and history."

A reader from Monson read *Barefoot* by Elin Hilderbrand: "This novel was a very easy read, but not sappy like some other romantic type fiction. All of the characters were facing life challenges and met them with courage and love, so the book was definitely uplifting and a good one to read in the darker days of winter. The author lives in Nantucket and the book is set on that island."

A reader from Burlington read *The Mothers* by Brit Bennett: "'The Mothers' was hauntingly realistic. The characters, so well developed and dimensional, and the setting, perfectly encapsulating the beauty and isolation of growing up in a small coastal city in California, left me feeling the pain, beauty, and grief of the story as if it was happening to my childhood friends."

A reader from Harrisburg read *Long, Bright River* by Liz Moore: "Really brought in the reality of life in Kensington/Philadelphia - I appreciate that Moore didn't pull her punches in her criticisms of law enforcement."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *One True Loves* by Taylor Jenkins Reid: "Absolutely charming book set in Acton MA. I love TJR writing style and this was another homerun."

A reader from South Hadley read *The Last Hurrah* by Edwin O'Connor: "Enjoyed the fictional history of Boston's famous/infamous mayor. The scene of Knocko's wake was an absolute classic of political strategy combined with a sort of ethnic compassion. Massachusetts's politics of the mid-20th century may be different than today's early 21st but I wonder how far ahead we the electorate are in spite of those differences."

A reader from Dracut read *A Warrior's Heart* by Micky Ward with Joe Layden: "Awesome!!!! Felt like I was right there in the middle of it!"

A reader from Beverly read *The Perfect Storm: A True Story of Men Against the Sea* by Sebastian Junger: "I appreciated that it was a non-embellished account of what happened to the Andrea Gail during the once-in-a-century storm in 1991, and didn't attempt to fictionalize or intuit what happened in the final moments of the crew, as that is unknown to the rest of the world. I did not expect to get so much information on what happened to other vessels and people during the same storm, but it served to give a full picture of just how massively destructive and rare the circumstances were."

A reader from AMHERST read *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green: "Tragic, sometimes humorous depiction of teenagers with cancer. I didn't find the narrative voice and dialogue to be convincing."

A reader from Swampscott read *The Heretics Daughter* by Kathleen Kent: "I've read lots of books that take place in the time of the witch trials. This one is fantastic. An excellent examination of familial relationships and the dangers of men in power."

A reader from Bolton read *Hour of the Witch* by Chris Bohjalian: "I really enjoyed this book. I have never read any historical fiction/nonfiction so I'm really glad I discovered it. The book was great and will for sure be reading more by the author."

A reader from Dracut read *Little Weirds* by Jenny Slate: "It was enjoyable and lyrical. And also true to the title, a Little Weird, but enjoyably so."

A reader from Enfield read *The Castaways* by Elin Hilderbrand: "My hometown is Agawam, MA. This book was set on Nantucket. I thought this book was average. It had interesting characters but it thought it was too long and over done. The ending wasn't as exciting as I wanted it to be."

A reader from Rochester read *Blackbird House* by Alice Hoffman: "Wonderful! Like waking up in the past and traveling through the years in an area I know so well. Heartwarming to get to know various characters and their unique stories, all tied together through their connection to this house on Cape Cod."

A reader from Dennis Port read *Summer of the Gypsy Moths* by Sara Pennypacker: "My son and I love this author. Her stories are suspenseful, compassionate and keep you turning pages. It was really neat reading a story in our own local setting with such vivid detail right down to the cottage turnovers."

A reader from Springfield read *Among Schoolchildren* by T. Kidder: "It was a very interesting read, done in a teacher's perspective. I was interested to see where it would go but it really informed me."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Images of America Shrewsbury* by Michael Perna Jr.: "It was very informative and interesting. I learned a lot about my hometown's history."

A reader from Springfield read *Walden* by Thoreau: "Thoreau details his life for over two years at Walden Pond. In a cabin he built he reflects on the cycles of nature and puts forth a philosophy of life that continues to resonate with many people."

A reader from Danvers read *The Pallbearer's Club* by Paul Tremblay: "I really enjoyed the structure of this - especially as an audiobook - having not one, but two unreliable narrators conversing was a lot of fun. I wanted more discomfort and terror than existed here, so left a little unsatisfied, though generally really enjoyed the read."

A reader from WILBRAHAM read *Thale's Folly* by Dorothy Gilman: "Thale's Folly's setting is a fictional town in western Massachusetts, about 3 hours from Manhattan. A young man from New York City meets some interesting people living in his family's abandoned farmhouse and he finds a new way of looking at life. It's an entertaining story."

A reader from Fitchburg read *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri: "I very much enjoyed getting to see the perspective of an family moving to a new country and how the author explored arranged marriages versus those chosen by love."

A reader from Gill read *Caleb's Crossing* by Geraldine Brooks: "Very good!"

A reader from Braintree read *How I Learned to Hate Ohio* by David Stuart MacLean: "Well written with complex characters."

A reader from Blackstone read *Townie* by Andre Dubus III: "I found this memoir interesting having seen this author speak a few years back. He had a rough upbringing but is a resilient and admirable man!"

A reader from Easthampton read *How Far The Light Reaches: A Life in Ten Sea Creatures* by Sabrina Imbler: "A beautiful and searing collection of essays."

A reader from Melrose read *We ride upon sticks* by Quan Barry: "It was fun to recognize the landmarks of the book and reminisce of 1980's time frame. Well written, you can tell she is also a poet."

A reader from Teaticket read *First Light* by Philip Craig & William Tapply: "I've read & enjoyed all the Philip Craig mysteries and saw this joint effort which I hadn't known about. I enjoy mysteries and like all the Vineyard references."

A reader from Providence read *City on Fire* by Don Winslow: "So engaging that I finished it in 2 sittings! Cannot wait for the next book in the trilogy."

A reader from Swansea read *Hey, Kiddo* by Jarrett Krosoczka: "I couldn't put it down. The first few chapters really were hard to read, as a mother. A wonderful memoir."

A reader from Plainville read *Summer of '69* by Elin Hilderbrand: "I really enjoyed this book. It was fun to read about Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard from 1969. I visited both islands this past summer and it was great reading about what was there in 1969."

A reader from Springfield read *The Reincarnation of Peter Proud* by Max Ehrlich: "Extremely boring, with a dash of sexism and racism sprinkled in. Author set it in Springfield by using clear landmarks and street names and yet insisted on calling the city "Riverside, Ma" like that would fool anyone. Just a dreadful book. Unfortunate, as the plot idea is interesting but the execution is just terrible."

A reader from SALEM read *Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zevin: "This book was half set in my home state, Massachusetts, specifically Boston. Although video games are not atypical topic of choice I was able to better relate having characters around my age and referencing a city I am familiar with."

A reader from Lowell read *The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath: "I can't believe that I have never read this book. I really enjoyed it. As a teacher of psychology, I also thought it was super relevant to both my course content as well as the collective struggle with mental health."

A reader from Hopkinton read *Dirtbag Massachusetts* by Isaac Fitzgerald: "Not really my cup of tea."

A reader from Forestdale read *The Old Cape House* by Barbara Eppich Struna: "This book brought the legendary pirate Sam Bellamy to life with this story set in the 1700s and present day."

A reader from Barnstable read *Sear Point* by Jim Coogan: "Loved this book. Jim is a great storyteller. Tracing the story of Washy Sears with the history of the Cape and Brewster in particular made for a great read. Jim captured the very essence of what makes The Cape so special!"

A reader from Lowell read *Dirtbag, Massachusetts* by Isaac Fitzgerald: "I loved it. An incredibly compelling memoir/collection of personal essays."

A reader from Fitchburg read *The Mystery of Hollow Places* by Rebecca Podos: "Interesting when reading about areas in my home town of Fitchburg tied into the story. I liked it, the main character looks for her mother (who grew up in Fitchburg) to locate her missing father."

A reader from Worcester read *Before the Flood* by Elisabeth C. Rosenberg: "I thought it was very interesting, but to learn about the towns that were destroyed to build the Quabbin. Even though I knew how it ended, I kept hoping they'd decide not to flood the towns!"

A reader from Reading read *Girl, Interrupted* by Susanna Kaysen: "I'd always meant to read it and now I'm glad I finally did. Though it took place a while ago it still rings true about certain aspects mental health and its treatment. Plus it's a lively read."

A reader from Bolton read *Tuesday Mooney Talks to Ghosts* by Kate Racculis: "This was a fun little adventure around Boston. I enjoyed reading about the characters visiting Boston spots that I have also visited through the years. The characters were quirky, fun and memorable."

A reader from East Falmouth read *Back to the Garden* by Laurie R. King: "Laurie R. King brings depth to her characters and their interactions with one another in every book she writes. I enjoy her Kate Martinelli books which take place in the San Francisco Bay Area. A character from that series makes a cameo appearance in *Back to the Garden*. King knows her subject matter--the events of the era and the setting in the coastal hills ring true to this reader who grew up in San Mateo County during that time. I like the way the story is woven as it switches from "Now" to "Then" and the challenge Raquel faces in deciding whether to fulfill the requirements of her job or to honor the moral obligation she feels so strongly. In a blog, King mentions that this is the beginning of a series I look forward to learning more about Raquel's background and her sister, seeing whether a relationship develops between Raquel and Jen, and whether others from the Martinelli series appear. This book is a pleasure to read as a stand alone novel. I highly recommend it. The attached photo shows the book next to the website for Filoli, one of the grand estates of San Mateo County."

A reader from Northborough read *Lucy by the Sea* by Elizabeth Strout: "Although I live in MA, I grew up in Maine and so chose this book. I continue to enjoy Strout's lively writing and hope to read more of her soon."

A reader from North Dighton read *In the Country We Love* by Diane Guerrero: "I especially enjoyed the first half of the book when the author describes her experiences growing up in and around Boston. Having lived in an around some of the neighborhoods at the same time (and having worked with many migrants--documented and not) it was easy for me to get involved in the narrative."

A reader from Hudson read *One True Loves* by Taylor Jenkins Reid: "An easy read, all tied up with a bow at the end! My 13 year old daughter told me I just had to read it and so I did, no questions asked."

A reader from Longmeadow read *Manhunt* by Gretchen Felker-Martin: "This is a spectacular, imaginative, intense horror book that feels at home in its Massachusetts setting."

A reader from Hadley read *Still Philadelphia* by Fredric M. Miller: "This book captures old Philadelphia's haunting beauty during the throes of its expansion at the turn of the 19th century through a sensitive and informative lens. It was fascinating to see places my great-grandparents and grandparents worked, such as Baldwin Locomotive and Curtis Publishing."

A reader from Attleboro read *Finding me: a memoir* by Viola Davis: "Interesting. I had no idea she was from central falls ri."

A reader from Billerica read *Lyddie* by Katherine Paterson: "Slow. Didn't care for the main character."

A reader from Sutton read *Cedar conundrums* by Lisa Shes: "Fun read... A cozy mystery that takes place in my home town."

A reader from Falmouth read *Falmouth* by Ann Sears, Nancy Kougeas: "This was a very interesting and fun book to read about my home town. I've seen it for sale around town for years, but never considered buying it."

A reader from Beverly read *The Hero of this Book* by Elizabeth McCracken: "Engaging (and kind of plot-less) memoir-like novel (though the writer/narrator insists throughout the book that it's not a memoir and not auto-fiction: my goodness, I think she doth protest too much) about a writer's mother, who lived in the Boston area and who worked at Boston University (so do I, really!). I did enjoy a lot of the prose and found the characters compelling. At the sentence level the writer is at the top of her game, and she can write a scene and create fascinating characters, but I still like a story and this one was a bit formless in that way. But I still liked it a lot."

A reader from Beverly read *Radio Free Vermont* by Bill McKibben: "This book made me laugh out loud! Bill McKibben tells a true Vermont story of the kind of tough, kind, independent spirits that live there. Vern Barclay, in his 70's speaks on a radio program and makes big mischief for Vermont's not so progressive leaders. He joins with several truly delightful characters to suggest secession and general re-thinking about climate and community! Brilliant and joyous!"

A reader from Belchertown read *Murder on Cape Cod* by Maddie Day: "Great recommendatipn from our town library staff..I am hooked and ready for more from Maddie Day!"

A reader from Lowell read *Release (Liberacao): A Lowell Story - Volume 1* by Richard Hollman: "I absolutely loved this book and that it's set in Lowell between the birth of industry in America and the present with a sci-fi element. It was a rough start, but found a great pacing from middle to end."

A reader from Yarmouth read *The Colossus of new York* by Colson Whitehead: "Exquisitely worded essays that paint a picture of New York more vividly than any painting or photograph could do. Whitehead humanizes pieces of City life that New Yorkers can relate to and which never appear in guide books. It is a love affair par excellent."

A reader from Middleboro read *Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zevin: "I really enjoyed it, the characters were realistic and the story was compelling."

A reader from Beverly read *Out of the Clear Blue Sky* by Kristen Higgins: "Light, summer read book. There were parts that I could relate to things that had happened to me many years ago. Setting was Cape Cod, Wellfleet and Provincetown mostly."

A reader from Beverly read *All The Dark Places* by Terri Parlato: "This was a promising thriller with an intriguing plot. Unfortunately, I found the writing to be choppy and I had trouble staying engaged."

A reader from New Bedford read *Hell Town* by Casey Sherman: "Well written with historic content that helped set the mood of the time period. I felt I had an insight into each of the persons in this book."

A reader from Sagamore Beacg\h read *Metropolis* by B.A. Shapiro: "Set in Boston MA my home state this is a mystery with six well developed characters and how they are connected by a storage unit. Very engrossing read that was hard to put down. Liked some of the twists and turns in the story. Would recommend."

A reader from Amherst read *Death in the off Season* by Francine Matthews: "Very well-written mystery with good character development and interesting plot. The Nantucket setting is lovingly described."

A reader from Tewksbury read *As Bright as Heaven* by Susan Meissner: "A quick, entertaining read. I chose this book for the location (Philadelphia) and the time period (during the outbreak of the Spanish Flu epidemic). I was a bit disappointed that Philly wasn't more of a character in the book and that even though the flu took a great toll on everybody, it seemed to sweep through and be gone quickly. I was wondering how they would react to it lingering."

A reader from Wakefield read *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott: "This has been my favorite book since I was a kid. I think it's a beautiful story about the family we make and the family we have by blood, and the love and grief and trials we all will have to experience in life. I will never be tired of reading and re-reading about the March family."

A reader from Chelmsford read *Northwest of Boston* by Stephen O'Connor: "Steve is a native of Lowell, MA and these 25 stories in this truly well written, insightful and compassionate collection illustrate the loves, concerns, joys, and fears of everyday working people of Lowell and the Merrimack Valley. Steve is a gifted writer and storyteller whose prose is elegant, funny, and understanding of his characters' lives, loves, and dreams."

A reader from Charlton read *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri: "Interesting story of Indian culture regarding the importance of names."

A reader from Florence read *Cruel Games* by Rose Ciotta: "This book about a true crime in my hometown was chilling. It happened long after I moved but strange to read of places I know well and even a bit that took place on the street I grew up on! I never would have read this if not for the February challenge!"

A reader from Forestdale read *Baklava, Biscotti, and an Irishman* by Kathy Aspden: "Captivating book that was hard to put down. Three people from countries each with a storied life. They all touch each others life settling and working around Boston Mass. they even speak about the cape and my home town."

A reader from Amherst read *The Drop* by Dennis Lehane: "Fantastic. My first modern crime book. So easy to read. The story was so simple and yet so compelling and shocking. I couldn't put down the book. Am now a true fan of Dennis Lehane."

A reader from Worcester read *The Woman in the Library* by Sulari Gentill: "The book is set in Boston, my hometown. It begins in the reading room of the BPL. I place dear to me. I went often when I was in high school. Gentill's description of the room brought me back there oh so many years ago. It's a murder mystery with many twists. I didn't know who dun it until the end."

A reader from Worcester read *The Woman in the Library* by Sulari Gentill: "This book was set in my hometown of Boston. The opening page describes the reading room at the BPL so clearly I was there though it has been so many decades. I loved being there. The book is a good escape, a murder mystery with lots of twists. Two crimes going on simultaneously with no link to each other."

A reader from Wakefield read *Robert B. Parker's Fallout* by Mike Lupica: "It was fun to see familiar characters again and relate to the up-to-date local references."

A reader from Rochester read *Night and Day* by Robert Parker: "It is a Jesse Stone novel. I always enjoy Parker's Jesse Stone novels."

A reader from Reading read *Under the cover of murder* by Lauren Elliott: "It was better than the previous one. I find that the author is more than a bit old fashion and likes to use phrases like 'small of her back' entirely too much."

A reader from Framingham read *Mercy Street* by Jennifer Haigh: "This was a pretty heavy book at times, but I found it quite interesting to dive into the mindsets of the different characters who were, in various ways, connected to the clinic. I am ambivalent about stories that don't really have a resolution, like this one, but it felt more realistic than a fully happy ending."

A reader from Beverly read *Haven Point* by Virginia Hume: "Really wanted to like it since it was set in my home state of Maine but didn't quite get there."

A reader from Braintree read *Hour of the Witch* by Chris Bohjalian: "Hour of the Witch was long and tedious. The main character was inconsistent. Easy solutions to a problem were not explored. Each chapter began with a quote from an upcoming event, and rather than building suspense, it made me want to just get everything over with."

A reader from Thorndike read *A Thousand Mornings* by Mary Oliver: "Beautiful poetry about life, nature, and the sea. Poems about Mary Oliver's life in Provincetown, MA."

A reader from greenfield read *Until I Have No Country: A novel of King Philip's war in New England* by Michael J. Tougas: "I chose a book on a subject I knew nothing about: King Philip. The book attempted to bring to life the native population, continually cheated by the white settlers. The book described the burning and pillaging of white settlers' homes and farms all through eastern Mass and near the area where I live in Greenfield. A good book, though sad. Why did the settlers assume they were superior? Why were they so greedy? I wouldn't have read this without Massbook challenge! Thanks!"

A reader from Somerville read *The Boston Girl* by Anita Diamant: "I loved this book. Diamant is a great storyteller and writer. It was a unique window into the history of Boston from the point of view of a feisty, smart, insightful daughter of Jewish immigrants."

A reader from Sunderland read *Fool's Paradise* by Mike Lupica: "Mike Lupica carries on the Robert Parker series of Jesse Stone, a police chief in Massachusetts' North Shore. I like reading books set in familiar territory, and can picture this seaside community, fictionalized as it is, to be just like Marblehead. It's a typical Lupica mystery, full of twists and good characters."

A reader from Peabody read *Nantucket White Christmas* by Pamela M. Kelley: "Easy reading, no suspense, fun look at ordinary couple.s"

A reader from Lunenburg read *The Body in the Belfry* by Katherine Hall Page: "Enjoyable read; I'd call it a cozy murder. Book 1 in a series. Will read more in this series at some point."

A reader from Peabody read *A Nantucket Affair* by Pamela M Kelley: "Interesting light reading."

A reader from Peabody read *Nantucket Weddings* by Pamela M. Kelley: "Nice story about family and friends."



A reader from Shrewsbury read *Midwives* by Chris Bohjalian: "This book is set in Reddington, Vermont and the Northeast Kingdom. I'm from Richmond, Vermont. I liked the book, although I didn't think it always accurately portrayed Vermont. Sometimes it seemed like he was just trying to drop in Vermont towns without actually knowing much about them."

A reader from Wakefield read *Ethan Frome* by Edith Wharton: "A sad and tragic story and unlike other Edith Wharton stories I've read. It's written in a very beautiful manner which adds to the somewhat haunting atmosphere the book creates."

A reader from Abington read *Murder at First Pitch* by Nicole Asselin: "This book was a cozy mystery set in Abington, and it really captured the spirit of the town. Now I want a ballpark!"

A reader from Spencer read *Memories* by Marty Civin: "It was fun hearing stories about people in my town's history and their adventures!"

A reader from Holbrook read *Hester* by Laurie Ico Albanese: "I loved how it was an updated version of the scarlet letter."

A reader from Weymouth read *Hardcore Twenty-four* by Janet Evanovich: "I thought it was a silly, light read. It made me laugh and I enjoyed the characters."

A reader from Amherst read *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng: "Wonderful book set in Shaker Heights Ohio, where I grew up! Great references to Shaker places (Draeger's Ice Cream! The duck pond!), while a story unfolds of a family who intersects with others in town. There is a very dramatic unfolding along with great characters."

A reader from Harwich read *The Truth According to Us* by Annie Barrows: "Although I consider myself a New Englander, I was born in WV and looked for a book about my birth state. This was a charming look at WV in the pre-WWII years with the WPA and family drama figuring prominently. A good read."

A reader from Dracut read *The Paper Route* by Jacqueline Cayer Nelson McDonald: "An interesting mid 1900s story full of local references and a bit of mystery."

A reader from Amesbury read *The Woman In the library* by Sulari Gentill: "It was a weird book. Didn't make sense really."

A reader from Reading read *Another Bullshit Night in Suck City* by Nick Flynn: "I had to read this book, which takes place primarily in Boston, but because of the title. Though a pretty fascinating account of a son's relationship with his troubled father, the book also provides considerable insight into the world of the unhoused in Boston."

A reader from Greenfield read *Writers and lovers* by Lily King: "This was a very witty, fierce but light hearted story of a young woman who has lost her mother. She is determined to find her way after this loss as she goes into another phase of life."

A reader from Fitchburg read *Girl from Fitchburg* by Bernardine Kielty Scherman: "I very much enjoyed the description of Fitchburg 'back in the day.' There was much detail about streets and buildings and families and Whalom Park! I was filled with nostalgia for times gone by. Fitchburg was a wonderful city in which to grow up."

A reader from Somerville read *On the Street Where You Live* by Mary Higgins Clark: "I didn't think it was well-written but the story was interesting and it was cool hearing her mention local places that I knew from growing up in New Jersey."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Mal de amores* by Angeles Mastretta: "A love story that happens during Revolution. I love how Angeles describes each place, and how each character in the book feels."

A reader from Chicopee read *Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zevin: "Excellent! Can't recommend this one highly enough. Well written. Great characters. Love the references to the 90s. I could care less about video games really but I LOVED every minute of this book."

A reader from Worcester read *Mink River* by Brian Doyle: "This book brought me back (home) to Oregon, where I was raised. Doyle's infectious sense of humor was absolutely delightful. This book was a heartfelt gem - I would highly recommend it."

A reader from Scituate read *Leaving Coy's Hill* by Kathleen Sherbrooke: "This very well written historical fiction novel tells the story of Lucy Stone, a determined abolitionist & women's suffragette. Her story is fascinating & Sherbrooke brings her & the times to life in a truly relatable way."

A reader from Georgetown read *Eight tale of terror* by Edgar Allan Poe: "It was really great. I didn't terrify me though, but that's just me. The Imp of the Perverse was my favorite story out of the eight."

A reader from Sandwich read *Columbia at 50: A Memoir of a City* by Len Lazarick: "I loved learning about the history of Columbia and all of the business decisions it took to create a "city" in the 1960s. This book showed me that the "planned community" where I grew up was also a business."

A reader from BEVERLY read *The Last Days of Dogtown* by Anita Diamant: "A gentle, compassionate look at people's struggles to connect and thrive on the outskirts of society."

A reader from East Sandwich read *The Bad Angel Brothers* by Paul Theroux: "The author was raised Medford, MA; he was friends with the future Mayor of New York City...Bloomberg! In the novel, Littleford, MA represents Medford, MA: Winterville represents Somerville, MA!"

A reader from Northampton read *The Beach Club* by Elin Hilderbrand: "UGH, UGH.....I read an article in Yankee Magazine about the author, her love for Nantucket Island and OMG, how extremely extremely popular her books are. I admit I didn't expect much since this was a "beach" read but I was hopeful to learn a bit about Nantucket, to learn why the author loved it so but....this read could have been set on any island - I never ever got a feel for Nantucket. Not every book is a winner! FYI - I truly enjoy Cynthia Riggs books set on Martha's Vineyard; from her writing one can imagine being there - more than that - one wants to be part of that community. Other MA books that give a sense of the place - Silencing the Women by Kathy-Ann Becker (1600s Northampton) and Time and the Town: A Provincetown Chronicle by Mary Heaton Vorse (P'town history up to the start of WWII)."

A reader from Worcester read *The Ninth House* by Leigh Bardugo: "Dark, twisty tale set in my home state of Connecticut! Compelling worldbuilding and characters that make me excited for the sequel."

A reader from Greenfield read *Appalachian Elegy* by bell hooks: "I felt like I was home in these poems."

A reader from Spencer read *Deliver us from evil* by Boutillette / Burdett: "Interesting because it is a true story of murder from the town where I live. But the 'spooky' occurrences and 'past lives' and 'this is devil stuff' is both ridiculous and insulting."

A reader from Stoneham read *The Ivy* by Lauren Kunze with Rina Onur: "I think it is 3/5 stars. There is no cliff hanger at the end leading to the next book in the series. However, I will finish, I'm just stating that there is a reason why the final book in the series is \$6.99, as a hardcover."

A reader from Attleboro read *Conversion* by Katherine Howe: "I found the back and forth between a modern day Denver's mystery illness and the Salem Witch Trials to be compelling."

A reader from Woods Hole read *Grieving for Pigeons* by Zubair Ahmad translated by Anne Murphy: "Very interesting read for me about my hometown Lahore. When Indian subcontinent was divided Punjab where I grew up was half in Pakistan and half in India. This book captures beautifully the feelings of divide, longing, reminiscing, city changing, and the bridge between familiarity and unfamiliarity."

A reader from Taunton read *The Game is a Footnote* by Vicki Delany: "...set in fictional town of West London on Cape Cod, MA..my home for 50+ years. Is the museum haunted or is someone playing pranks? Then a dead body is discovered. Gemma Doyle and her business partner, Jayne Wilson work together to find the actual culprit behind it all."

A reader from Somerset read *Writers and Lovers* by Lily King: "I enjoyed reading a book which referenced locations close to me and that I'm familiar with."

A reader from Dighton read *Mystic river* by Denis Lehane: "I loved it from the beginning! The twist at the end caught me completely off guard!"

A reader from Chicopee read *This Is How You Lose Her* by Junot Diaz: "You really need to speak Spanish to understand all the sentences in this book that are in that language. This is the story of Yunior and the relationships he loses in his life."

A reader from Rockland read *Those Who Love* by Irving Stone: "I grew up in Braintree, so reading a novel about one of our country's founding fathers – and Braintree's pride – was an easy choice. This (admittedly loooong) novel describes the courtship and marriage between John Adams and Abigail Smith (of Weymouth). The picture is of John Adams' house, in what is now called Quincy."

A reader from Peabody read *Nantucket Threads* by Pamela M. Kelley: "Another light reading about couples and their relationships surrounded by family"

A reader from Lowell read *The Daring Ladies of Lowell* by Kate Alcott: "The book was about girls worked in the textile mills in Lowell, MA. I thought the book was simplistic but entertaining. The love story was unneeded."

A reader from Tewksbury read *One for the Money* by Janet Evanovich: "I've read many (most?) of the Grafton and Peretsky novels with a female private detective. Perhaps I have a new series to add to the genre??"

A reader from Paxton read *The Okay Witch* by Emma Steinkellner: "This book is a delightful graphic novel set in the fictional town of Founders Bluff, Massachusetts."

A reader from Marshfield read *Writers & Lovers* by Lily King: "I'm a sucker for books about grief, and this was a great study of it. Loved the characters and I was really pulling for the protagonist."

A reader from PEMBROKE read *In the House in the Dark of the Woods* by Laird Hunt: "It's set in Colonial New England and is about a woman getting lost in the woods and the strange journey she has. I found it slow and confusing."

A reader from Wilmington read *Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zevin: "Really liked this book - I appreciated the Boston area details (discussion around the subway, glass museum, and Necco Wafer factory, for example) and found the characters and their experiences connecting, disconnecting, and reconnecting with each other over a span of many years to be compelling and interesting. I also never would have thought of video games as a potentially powerful political tool, and although I will probably never be a gamer, this made me reconsider that a bit."

A reader from Attleboro read *Big Summer* by Jennifer Weiner: "I'm going to be honest. I had no idea where this book was going. I didn't realize it was a mystery until the mystery portion was upon me. Once it happened, I was down, but I was also confused. I would have enjoyed a better mystery, since there was one, but I also could have done without it?"

A reader from Conway read *Testimony* by Anita Shreve: "Good story about the cascading, expanding consequences of bad behavior. A bit of a twist in the plot."

A reader from Wilmington read *Here's to Us* by Elin Hildebrand: "This book explores the complex relationship of a man who has 3 marriages. He has raised all of his children to enjoy summers on Nantucket in Massachusetts. The book is a light read that goes into the difficulties of everyday life. I enjoyed it."

A reader from FRANKLIN read *Improbable Magic for Cynical Witches* by Kate Scelsa: "I enjoyed the combination of the belief behind Tarot cards and true life happenings. Good story of a teen trying to understand life and interactions with others and the truth is not always clear from your own point of view."

A reader from Hampden read *The Wartime Sisters* by Lynda Cohen Loigman: "The story itself was excellent, but also the recalling of so many memories of my hometown. From Classical High School (in the late 50's), we walked to and through the Byers St and State St gate to have our gym classes on the Armory Square grounds in front of the museum building. The officers' homes lined one side. They were lovely."

A reader from Medford read *The Big House* by George Howe Colt: "This was not a fast read, but extremely evocative and very well written. Last summer, my cousins and I had to sell a large family cottage in the White Mountains that had been in our family since 1903. And my grandmother's grandfather had a shingled house in West Falmouth that he purchased in the 1890s but was basically taken from them in the 1930s due to family drama and a lawsuit. So lots of the details in the book resonated for me."

A reader from Lowell read *The factory witches of Lowell* by C.S. Malerich: "It was a fun read. It was very interesting to read an alternate version of the history of my hometown."

A reader from Lowell read *The Storied Life of A.J Fikry* by Gabrielle Zevin: "Great book!"

A reader from Holden read *Eligible* by Curtis Sittenfeld: "This was a fun and frothy contemporary retelling of *Pride and Prejudice* set in my original hometown of Cincinnati. Although I moved away as a child, the novel featured landmarks and neighborhoods I often heard tell of, expanding my perspective of the city."

A reader from Dracut read *Tales of the Times* by Bob Hodge: "Bob Hodge's *Tales of the Times* is timeless. A true capture of a Lowellian living through his youth and enjoying his glory, balanced with riddles of building a future and a family. All the while running, jogging, writing and reading. Hodge knows his home in Lowell."

A reader from Hudson read *Hester* by Laurie Albanese: "I was intrigued by this remarkable tale. The novel provides a different perspective to the story of "The Scarlet Letter", one well known to high school students. Set in Salem, "Hester" tells the story from Isobel Gamble's point of view as it depicts the hardships of being a courageous young woman during that period of history in this Massachusetts location."

A reader from SUTTON read *Aspen Allegations* by Lisa Shea: "This was a cozy, small-town mystery. It had a bit too many unnecessary details in parts, but it was still fun to read since I recognized so many of the locations!"

A reader from Dracut read *Here and Nowhere Else* by Jane Brox: "It was interesting reading about Jane's interlude at the family farm after some time away. I'd met Jane in the past and was on a committee with her, and still visit the farm to pick up produce."

A reader from SCITUATE read *Mad Honey* by Picoult/Finney Boylan: "The story is the captivating result of the work of two great authors, Jennifer Finney Boylan and Jodi Picoult. It is set in Boston and NH and is a mystery and homage to people struggling to find acceptance as transgender folks. The authors took turns on writing the chapters and invite readers to figure out which author wrote which chapters."

A reader from Stoneham read *The Twentieth Wife* by Indu Sunderesan: "Excellent blend of historical Indian fact and fiction. Set in my hometown of Agra made it all the more special!"

A reader from Naples read *The Hotel Nantucket* by Elin Hilderbrand: "Interesting twist on Elin's usual stories - love reading her books in the summertime or when I want to be reminded of summertime."

A reader from Stoneham read *A Civil Action* by Jonathan Harr: "The author told an enthralling story - so much so, that there were several occasions during my reading in which I found difficulty in putting the book down. The narrative - a true story - "hit close to home", seeing how the core of it all happened in the next town over from where I live."

A reader from Salem read *How To Hang A Witch* by Adriana Mather: "An intriguing mystery. I absolutely loved it."

A reader from Stoneham read *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry* by Gabriella Zelman: "This is a great story about how strong human connections can change your life. I really loved the characters and how seamlessly the story flows. This will definitely be on my read again list."

A reader from Salem read *How To Hang A Witch* by Adriana Mather: "An intriguing mystery combining the past with the present."

A reader from Indian Orchard read *Mystic River* by Dennis Lehane: "I thought it was bad! Uninspired, unlikeable, too long."

A reader from Weston read *Girl running* by Annette Bay Pimentel: "That who you are you can do anything you put your mine to. Also girls can do anything boys can do and there shouldn't be different rules for girls and boys."

A reader from Weston read *Most wanted* by Sarah Jane marsh: "I thought I was very informative about the beginning of the American Revolution"

A reader from Middleboro read *The Big House* by George Howe Colt: "The story was evocative of my own family's experience of having a summer place where the relatives meet for a couple weeks or months every summer. The generational shared memories, the area of Buzzards Bay and the attitudes of a Yankee family all made me feel like I was reading something of my own story, except for the money of course. It was a good story for the author to write and while I enjoyed parts, it was decidedly verbose in other parts."

A reader from Leominster read *Darkness, Take my Hand* by Dennis Lehane: "It took place in the surrounding suburbs of Boston and involved the Irish mob. Fast paced and kept you guessing."

A reader from Leverett read *Hokuloa Road* by Elizabeth Hand: "The book described a rural part of Hawaii on a less populated island, with lots of discussion of preserving plant and animal species. It balanced Hawaiian folklore and culture with very modern subjects like COVID, overdevelopment, and a murder mystery. I enjoyed all these elements coming together."

A reader from Middleboro read *It Ends With Us* by Colleen Hoover: "I felt as if I was in the book seeing and feeling every scene. The sad truths of abuse in a relationship but in the end will it stay ok.. book 2 here I come!"

A reader from Middleboro read *Love, Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli: "I thought this book had a good theme about staying true to yourself. I love reading the location descriptions, as it took me back to that town in my home state of Pennsylvania!"

A reader from HAMPDEN read *A Promise To Astrid* by Michael K. Tourville: "Loved that it was based in my hometown, but didn't think it was high quality writing."

A reader from Palmer read *Before The Flood* by Elizabeth Rosenberg: "Love hiking at Quabbin. I really never thought about the destruction of the town or it's people."

A reader from Dracut read *Hester* by Laurie Lico Albanese: "I loved this book and how the characters grappled with their past in Salem, the way they see the world, and slavery in US when it was still present in the south. Isobel, the main character was such a strong and innovative women."

A reader from Hopkinton read *Dark Tide* by Steven Puleo: "I have been hearing about the molasses flood in the North End of Boston for years. This book details all that led up to the 1919 tragedy and the aftermath."

A reader from Oak Bluffs read *Godmersham* by Gill Hornby: "Lovely imaging of historic data."

A reader from Lowell read *Writers and Lovers* by Lily King: "A story of a woman who aspires to be a writer while working full time but gets a happy feel good ending? Sign me up! This read was quick but felt so powerful and increasingly like something I could read again and again."

A reader from Three Rivers read *Betwixt* by Darynda Jones: "The writing was funny and interesting. Overall, I enjoyed the story, but at times thought the main character should act and ask questions later."

A reader from Elkins read *The Revolutionary Samuel Adams* by Stacy Schiff: "This was an engaging view into the life of a remarkable man who I knew embarrassingly little about."

A reader from Forestdale read *Helltown: the untold story of serial murder on cape cod* by Casey Sherman: "I thought it was interesting to hear the details. It was truly so horrific. The imagery of places on the Cape I have been to many times while hearing these stories was quite startling."

A reader from Oakton read *Finlay Donovan Jumps the Gun* by Elle Cosimano: "Another madcap adventure for Finlay. Humorous and pure escapist reading."

A reader from Dedham read *The Woman in the Library* by Sulari Gentill: "This book begins with a scream heard in the Boston Public Library! It is a page-turner for sure with many twists and turns. I loved it!"

A reader from Centerville read *SON of MASHPEE Reflections of Chief Flying Eagle, a WAMPANOAG* by Earl Mill Sr and Alicja Mann: "Because I have the privilege to live on Cape Cod, on Wampanoag land, and have met friends from this tribe, I chose this book. I am deeply inspired by the courage to write this book, the respect of the ancestors' way of life, culture and spirituality; And the authors' hope for all human communities 'TO HAVE ROOTS AND TO HAVE WINGS.'"

A reader from Oakham read *Searching for Atticus* by Janice Harvey: "Excellent novel about growing up in Worcester, Mass., by a bookish girl who grew up to be a schoolteacher and a popular columnist for Worcester Magazine. Witty, direct, dead-on depiction of the locale and the era (1960s), as well as the emotions of growing up in an "interesting" neighborhood with unstable adults."

A reader from Attleboro read *Dirtbag, Massachusetts: A Confessional* by Isaac Fitzgerald: "Well written; very readable. Made me sorry for the author's childhood experiences, but disappointed in his life choices before discovering his writing ability and current successes."

A reader from Naples read *The Bohemians* by Jasmin Darznik: "Loved this book. Loved living in San Francisco. Historical fiction - Dorothy Lange and company living in the City during its wild years. Well researched (great author's note) and lovingly presented. Also read *Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow* - combined Boston and CA - my two special places, and the gaming industry. Both books had wonderful female characters."

A reader from Boston read *Keeper of Happy Endings* by Barbara Davis: "Not only was this set in Boston - but in my neighborhood in Boston. With flashbacks to Paris, a place special to my husband & me."

A reader from Osterville read *When the Circus Came to Town* by James Davidson: "My home town is Flemington NJ and is the location of the Lindbergh baby kidnapping trial. The book is about the impact on the small rural town Flemington was at the time."

A reader from Attleboro read *Dirtbag, Massachusetts* by Issac Fitzgerald: "I loved his openness and honesty."

A reader from Erving read *Hocus Pocus* by A.W. Jantha: "Completely Amazing! Adventurous! This couldn't of been any closer to the movie. Always a big time favorite for me. I could picture the characters, I could almost hear the thoughts and imagine myself there with them. I could feel Thackery's pain for his sister. Or how easy going Dani is, the entire time that all this crazy witch craft is going on, not surprised at all of a dead man walking. All in all a good book. I would definitely read this again!"

A reader from Wakefield read *Nineteen Minutes* by Jodi Picoult: "This book was so hard to put down! Heart-wrenching, wonderful characters, each chapter had sections from different characters points of view. You slowly got the whole picture as the book went on and see how everything tied together."

A reader from Randolph read *The Professional* by Robert B. Parker: "This book is one of the author's Spenser series, about a crusty Boston private detective named Spenser as he works to solve a murder & extortion mystery set in Boston (where I lived and worked for more than thirty years) and in western Massachusetts (Springfield) where I was born and grew up. I always enjoy the whodunit aspect of Parker's mysteries and in particular his frequent, colorful and recognizable descriptions of the locations in the story."

A reader from Wayland read *You're a mean one Matthew Prince* by Timothy Janovsky: "I thought this book was gonna give me hallmark Christmas movie vibes, but despite the corny plot it was even better. There was a focus on mental health and the LGBTQ community that I connected with on some level. Matthew describing his anxiety got me worked up and upset for him."

A reader from Scituate read *Shutter Island* by Dennis Lehane: "First Lehane book I have read. I read it as first book I found in our home library set in Massachusetts which I had not previously read. Beginning seemed slower than many books I have enjoyed but very surprising twist. Glad that I was not aware of it before I read it."

A reader from Springfield read *The Unseen World* by Luz Moore: "The story of Ada and her somewhat unusual father, the secrets he kept and how she discovers them. Very interesting ending."

A reader from East Falmouth read *The Outermost House* by Henry Beston: "Very descriptive journal of a year alone on outer Cape Cod."

A reader from Hanson read *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri: "This book looks at the everyday experiences that a family goes through when he/she enters a new country to live. The author created images that will make one far more sensitive to the growth and hardship that immigrants experience as they try to hold onto traditions/beliefs from their country while adopting new ones."

A reader from Haverhill read *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom: "A great story about death and dying with dignity. Love the lessons share by Morrie and the normalization of the dying and grief process. It is great to see that process highlighted in a beautiful way."

A reader from West Yarmouth read *Widow's War* by Sally Cabot Gunning: "I thought it was well written and gave some history to how women had no rights if their husbands died. I liked all the Cape Cod towns mentioned. Living here I could picture the places in my head."

A reader from Bolton read *The Giant's House: A Romance* by Elizabeth McCracken: "While this novel's setting was Cape Cod, it really could have been any seasonally driven town. I found it very empathetic to the Giant, but the stereotyped librarian's motivations were often unclear."



A reader from Melrose read *The Beantown Girls* by Jane Healey: "Solid historical fiction. Not amazing but decent."

A reader from Erving read *On Beauty* by Zadie Smith: "Not as easy read but interesting, complex characters. A view into many complicated lives and the workings of higher education and its politics and family dynamics."

A reader from Sandwich read *Sandwich CapeCods Oldest Town* by Marion Vuilleumier: "I loved learning about the history of Sandwich."

A reader from Braintree read *Our Own Country* by Jodi Daynard: "I read this book because it takes place in Braintree during the revolutionary war. The characters were extremely unlikable, but I learned a lot about the Revolution that I didn't know before."

A reader from Beverly read *Little French Bridal Shop* by Jennifer Dupee: "I found the book to be an accurate portrayal of how aging parents affect our decisions and letting go of what we thought knew to be true. Story line paralleled the love interest theme as well."

A reader from Attleboro read *The Godwulf Manuscript* by Robert B. Parker: "This is Robert Parker's first Spencer mystery novel and it was set in the Boston/Cambridge area in the college scene, probably shortly before I was there in the early 70's."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Hey Kiddo* by Jarrett J. Krosoczka: "Loved it. He grew up in Worcester around the time I did, and I recognized a lot of the places he writes (and draws) about."

A reader from Hadley read *Band of Sisters* by Lauren Willig: "This story of a group of Smith College graduates going to war-torn France to help rebuild bombed-out villages is a story of Sisterhood, of Created Community, of Perseverance, of Struggle, and of Hope. It helps me understand my own mother's story, and those of some of her friends, many of whom also attended Smith and/or did some of the work described in Band of Sisters, such as work at Settlement Houses, with Labor Unions, etc."

A reader from Boston read *The Whale: A Love Story* by Mark Beauregard: "'If I told you I loved you, Herman, it would change nothing' 'If you told me you loved me, Nathaniel, it would change everything' A fascinating fictional romantic relationship between Herman Melville and Nathaniel Hawthorne. As a secondary resident of the Berkshires, I loved the locality of the story as well. Such a great find in a Berkshires bookstore!"

A reader from Springfield read *Ethan Frome* by Edith Wharton: "I thought the story was interesting, however the main character I found to be irritating."

A reader from Springfield read *Memphis* by Tara M. Stringfellow: "I enjoyed this window on life in Memphis in the 20th century. I liked the way that the generations of women were connected through a sense of home and their artistic talents, which connected them to the history of their family and gave the paths into their futures."

A reader from Clinton read *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller: "I enjoyed it - especially the foreword which gave some history regarding the play. I did have to read the synopsis after each act to make sure I was following the plot, though!"

A reader from CHICOPEE read *The Boston Girl* by Anita Diamant: "Linda Lavin was a great narrator for this book. It was the story of a young Jewish girl growing up in Boston and it mentioned historical events like prohibition and the influenza epidemic. I liked it because Addie Baum was so likeable, real, and down to earth. She struggled to find love and ending up finding it when she least expected it."

A reader from Belchertown read *Chef's Kiss* by Jarrett Melendez: "This graphic novel was cute! I really enjoyed the cooking theme and the in depth recipes as well as the romance between the two main characters. All the friendships are also really fun, but I didn't feel that there was a ton of substance to it."

A reader from Beverly read *The Boston Girl* by Anita Diamant: "I love hearing the perspective of a strong woman in a different era. She isn't some amazing character that you can't relate to, but she is still a pioneer and makes me change my focus on my life in 2023."

A reader from Hudson read *Hester* by Laurie Albanese: "Hester takes place in Salem during the years before Hawthorne became famous. This novel offers a unique perspective to the story leading up to the Scarlet Letter. It is told from the point of view of Isobel Gamble and offers much thought as to how young women were accused of heinous crimes. A well-written and provoking historical novel!"

A reader from Chelmsford read *Make way for ducklings* by Robert cmcloskey: "It's always a favorite book of mine."

A reader from Wellesley read *The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath: "Powerful novel/memoir. At times her voice was so funny and then so heartbreaking, we can see just a glimpse into Sylvia Plath's terrible struggle with depression."

A reader from Plainville read *The Cherry Robbers* by Sarai Walker: "Gothic tale about marriage. Questions what women lose when they get married and what happens to them. Also about the strenght of women who challenge it. I initially read because the summer in Cape Cod."

A reader from Beverly read *Ollie and the science of treasure hunting* by Erin Dionne: "I loved how this book kept me guessing about what was going to happen until the very end! My favorite part of the book was the Gotcha! game, and how everybody was on there goes and constantly watching and pranking each other."

A reader from Hartland read *Bag Balm and Duct Tape Tales of a Vermont Doctor* by Beach Conger: "This book is written by a doctor I know and is set in my town and neighboring town, although the names have been changed. I read it when It was first published 35 years ago, and loved the humor. As a more mature reader I find the writing is tedious and the humor not as amusing."

A reader from Swansea read *The Orchard House* by Heidi Chiavaroli: "Historical fiction focused on Louisa May Alcott's home in Concord, MA, this novel develops two fascinating story lines, one modern and one in Louisa's nineteenth century. A modern author reflects on her own story through the lens of a woman who worked for the Alcotts."

A reader from Amesbury read *Warp* by Lev Grossman: "Not great. Amateurish. Like the author was reaching for something he didn't have the talent to achieve."

A reader from Hadley read *A pros and cons list for strong feelings : a graphic memoir* by Will Betke-Brunswick: "I was surprised to learn that the author grew up in the area of Northampton, Mass, one town away from where I live now. 'I'm glad this book exists,' I thought, taking in the joy and love between the author as a queer, gender non conforming child, and their mother."

A reader from Attleboro read *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry* by Gabrielle Zevin: "Overall this book, set in my long-time home state of MA, had a cute story in it, one full of the meaning of life and love for others. However, I did not particularly like the way some characters were described and some relationships occurred; four stars."

A reader from Rochester read *Nantucket penny* by Steven. Axelrod: "Large colorful cast of characters both year round, summer help and non resident who don't always get along . You will have to pay attention to solve this one. Enjoyed this book."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Mad Honey* by Jennifer Finney Boylan and Jodi Picoult: "The book gave me some perspective on the challenges of being Transgender as a young adult. I really felt for the character of Lily. The setting was in Massachusetts, New Hampshire. It was interesting to hear towns that I have actually been to mentioned in the book."

A reader from Grafton read *The Paperwhite Narcissus* by Cynthia Riggs: "The author captures so many Island nuances perfectly, especially the descriptions of locations and the use of many familiar local family names. I grew up on the Island and couldn't find any gaffes which was delightful. And finding out that the author and her family have been on the Island for many generations made the book even more special."

A reader from Belchertown read *Marmee* by Sarah Miller: "Book recreates the atmosphere of Little Women most wonderfully. The life and restrictions of a woman in those times is well depicted. I enjoyed this book immensely."

A reader from Marblehead read *28 summers* by Elin Hildebrand: "I always like reading books that take place in Mass. This was beautiful and heartbreaking."

A reader from Belchertown read *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller: "A timeless story about the strengths and weaknesses of human character."

A reader from Cohasset read *Images of America - Cohasset* by David Wadsworth, Lynne DiGiacomo & Paula Morse: "Cohasset is a picturesque town on the coast of Massachusetts. This book recounted stories of its interesting history and intriguing residents."

A reader from Hampden read *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott: "A timeless classic set in Concord, Mass. about 4 sisters. Have read the book twice and visited their home in Concord. Also seen the movie in black and white on TCM. There is also a newer version I have also seen."

A reader from Scituate read *WARNINGS IGNORED! The Story of the Portland Gale-November 1898* by Fred Freitas and David Ball: "Fantastic historic book about MA South Shore epic storm, complete with wild seas, massive damage, loss of vessels and tremendous loss of lives. Local history defined by nature's power, available communication in 1898, family & street names and photos."

A reader from Arlington read *On Beauty* by Zadie Smith: "I loved the writing but couldn't stand most of the characters. It did a good job capturing the incestuousness of a small liberal arts college in New England."

A reader from Leominster read *Conversion* by Katherine Howe: "It was a very slow start, and the characters were not super developed."

A reader from Lee read *The House in the Pines* by Ana Reyes: "Normally I'm unimpressed with the unreliable female character trope, however Reyes put her own little spin on it that kept me interested."

A reader from Lincoln read *Our Missing Hearts* by Celeste Ng: "I enjoyed Lucy Liu's reading for the audiobook of Ng's 3rd novel which takes place partly in Cambridge, MA. Interesting in many ways: viewpoint of a young child, dystopian future reminiscent of 1984, *Handmaid's Tale* etc. I particularly liked this book and Ng's second book, terrific reads!"

A reader from Lowell read *The Factory Witches of Lowell* by C.S. Malerich: "As a life long Lowellian and lover of historical fiction/fantasy, I was hopeful when a local bookstore employee recommended this title to me. Unfortunately, I found the writing style difficult to get into and didn't find the plot particularly engaging. It was clear that the author had done her research on the Factory Mill Girls Union strike but the narrative wasn't as compelling as I had hoped."

A reader from Billerica read *We Ride Upon Sticks* by Quan Barry: "Really interesting plot and setting. Kept my interest in beginning but kind of lost me as it went on. But seriously loved how the author brought the setting to life."

A reader from Boston read *Home Town* by Tracy Kidder: "I've been meaning to read this book for years because it is, in fact, about MY hometown. But it was written in 1999, and strikes me as very dated: almost hero-worshipping of a local cop with his questionable tactics and disdain for people not like him. An interesting time capsule, but a distressing read as someone who grew up in Northampton."

A reader from Erving read *The Red Garden* by Alice Hoffman: "Historical and spooky! It was the interesting to see how it all interconnected through the past three hundred years."

A reader from Weymouth read *The Boston Italians* by Stephen Puleo: "Well researched book about the contribution Italians made to the city of Boston and created the best neighborhood in the city. This book covers the migration of Italians, almost 14 million from 1880 to 1908, to today's beloved North End neighborhood."

A reader from Reading read *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri: "The book spends the early part in Cambridge and a suburb and then moves to New York. Gogol, the main character, is at once sympathetic and quite maddening. There are so many instances where Gogol and the people around him don't fully express themselves, leading to misunderstandings, separations, and even divorce. The book left me very sad."

A reader from Attleboro read *Tuesdays With Morrie* by Mitch Albom: "It was a very thought provoking book. It made me think about the things in life that are truly important."

A reader from Abington read *Ethan Frome* by Edith Wharton: "Easy to see why so highly acclaimed. Short, compelling narrative with a punch."

A reader from Danvers read *Find Me* by Anne Frasier: “This was a fast-paced mystery centering on a serial killer who preyed on young women in the Inland Empire of California. It was well-written with captivating characters and some nice twists, plus wonderful descriptions of the Mojave Desert (where I grew up.)”

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Out of the Clear Blue Sky* by Kristan Higgins: “Wow! I enjoyed this much more than I expected. I couldn’t find a book that takes place in my town so I went with one that took place in my state. I’d read some of the other books that take place on Nantucket (and a whole boatload of mysteries take place in Boston) so I wanted something a little bit different. I’m so glad this reading challenge got me outside of my typical comfort zone.”

A reader from Paxton read *Good Harbor* by Anita Diamant: “I enjoyed the friendship between the two women and their separate seasons of life. Love reading a fictional book set in my . . .”

A reader from Melrose read *Night of the Living Rez* by Morgan Talty: “A raw and sorrowful collection of stories about pain, trauma, and substance abuse on the Penobscot Indian Reservation in Maine. It pulls at your heartstrings as you connect with the characters and try to will them to do better for themselves.”

A reader from Sudbury read *You’ll Be the Death of Me* by Karen K. McManus: “My first Karen K McManus book, and I can see why she’s a popular YA author! A fun read, and even though the hometown is fictional, I could imagine it as my own (the Boston/MA references were all very accurate! You can tell the author is from MA and it really helped me stay locked into the story).”

A reader from Stoneham read *Robert P. Parker's Fallout* by Mike Lupica: “A good continuation of the Jesse Stone series.”

A reader from Attleboro read *Moonlight Mile* by Dennis Lehane: “I wasn’t thrilled with some of the language in the book; there are several F-bombs. Nonetheless, I couldn’t put the book down once I started reading it.”

A reader from Beverly read *Hester* by Laurie Licorice Albanese: “What if the character of Hester Prynne in *The Scarlet Letter* was based on a real life lover of Nathaniel Hawthorne? What if the Reverend Dimmesdale was Hawthorne himself? Such intriguing questions! I really enjoyed the way Lisa Albanese answered them. Salem in the nineteenth century was certainly a wild town. Read all the gossip in *Hester* by Lisa Albanese.”

A reader from Sunderland read *The Creation of Quabbin Reservoir: The Death of the Swift River Valley* by J.R. Greene: “I enjoyed reading through the various bureaucratic conflicts and social issues that affected the creation of my home state’s largest body of water. I never knew just how many years of chaos, stress, and strife (including 12 lost lives and 4 lost towns!) went into its creation, and it was a fascinating read... if not a little dense with governmental minutia.”

A reader from Dracut read *Too Late to Say Goodbye* by Ann Rule: “Though the subject was morbid, I enjoyed reading about an area I am so familiar with, as it made the setting so much easier to imagine.”

A reader from Reading read *L.A. Weather* by María Amparo Escandón: “I grew up in the suburbs around Los Angeles, and the descriptions of LA weather (and its 5 seasons), as well as the threat of wildfires, brought back a lot of memories, as well as highlighted the changes that have occurred over the 20 years

since I moved to Massachusetts. The description of the Santa Anna winds was particularly on point - from how they mess up your hair to how they somehow set everyone on edge. The story in this novel was excellent - great family dynamics."

A reader from Wilbraham read *Pay the Piper* by Jane Yolan and Adam Stemple: "A rock and roll modern day take on the Pied Piper set in Massachusetts. I enjoyed it and have added it to my classroom library!"

A reader from Acton read *Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout: "Such an honest and introspective portrait of a fictional small town in Maine (similar to the one where I grew up). I enjoyed getting snippets of Olive and life in Crosby through her POV and others' - so much happens behind closed doors and inside our minds, even in a place where everyone knows everyone."

A reader from Reading read *Silver Sparrow* by Tayari Jones: "Having grown up in the Atlanta area, it was fun to read about familiar places and how these spots were a part of the characters' lives. Overall, I enjoyed the book, but the ending left me wanting more."

A reader from Bondsville read *Between* by L.L. Starling: "This book is so funny! The characters, the fantasy, and the witty sass and banter were all great."

A reader from Bourne read *Wash Ashore: A tale of Cape Cod* by Mary Petiet: "It was a fun quick read ... a little predictable, but great storytelling and perspectives from people, ghosts and animals. It also felt so familiar knowing the surrounding area."

A reader from Chelmsford read *As I Lay Dying* by William Faulkner: "I love how succinctly this book captures the essence of rural Mississippi, as well as the deep inner workings of every character. Faulkner's almost stream of consciousness style, complete with the southern dialect, make you feel like you're magically transported into each and every character's shoes."

A reader from Beverly read *White Ivy* by Susie Yang: "This was a very character driven novel that took some interesting plot turns. Overall, it did not work for me."

A reader from Rochester read *Hetty: The Genius and Madness of America's First Female Tycoon* by Charles Slack: "Having grown up in New Bedford, I was already familiar with much of Hetty Green's story. Nonetheless, I appreciated getting to learn more about her life beyond the stories of her infamous frugality!"

A reader from Weymouth read *The Big House* by George Howe Colt: "I grew up in Falmouth, next door to Wings Neck on Cape Cod. Reading his memoir about the history of his family summer home and the history of Cape Cod really resonated with me. It really captured the "Cape Cod Culture" and the appeal of summer living!"

A reader from Fitchburg read *Hour of the Witch* by Chris Bohjalian: "It was difficult to read because of the way women were treated back in the 1600s. I was also under the impression there would be more actual "witch" parts but it was still an interesting read."

A reader from Bolton read *Tuesday Mooney Talks to Ghosts* by Kate Racculia: "A fun adventure around Boston. Light easy read."

A reader from Amherst read *Paradise Falls: the True Story of an Environmental Catastrophe* by Keith O'Brien: "I grew up an hour away from Love Canal in the 1980's, so I knew the basics, but this was an

incredible deep dive into the disaster, the politics, the activists, and the legacy. So well researched and well written - what a page-turner.”

A reader from South Hadley read *Me, Moth* by Amber McBride: “The language was absolutely gorgeous, and I seriously did not see the ending coming.”

A reader from Chicopee read *Running With Scissors* by Augusten Burroughs: “A very disturbing memoir of a very dysfunctional childhood. I wanted to put it down but I read on in hopes of a happy ending. It's haunting.”

A reader from Springfield read *The Boston Girl* by Anita Diamant: “An fun easy book to read, with a little of history.”

A reader from Tewksbury read *Practical Magic* by Alice Hoffman: “I loved the book storyline about the lineage and family bond of magical sisters who lived in Massachusetts on Magnolia Street. I, however, did not see the reason for so much sexual commentary. Otherwise, was a great book.”

A reader from Attleboro read *The Second Home* by Christina Clancy: “Well-written novel with a bit of disturbing content in the middle of the book. Clancy intertwined two locations well and did an excellent job with character and setting descriptions.”

A reader from Monson read *The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy* by Jeanne Birdsall: “I enjoyed this chaotic story of young girls on their summer vacation, making new friends and learning to stand up for themselves and encourage others to be true to their self.”

A reader from Weymouth read *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom: “I had high hopes for this book - and it didn't exactly fulfill those hopes. It was a great story and narration, but I felt a little disconnected as to why we should look to Morrie as a role model.”

A reader from Sandwich read *Mashpee Nine: A Story of Cultural Justice* by Paula Peters: “A great deep dive into local history; it really brought history to life.”

A reader from Hopkinton read *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott: “This was a wonderful read about family, love, and discovering oneself.”

A reader from Falmouth read *A Woman in the Library* by Sulari Gentill: “This book takes place in Boston, Massachusetts and begins with a murder in Boston Public Library. The mystery has lots of twists and turns, but the book also has a unique format where a fictional correspondent is writing to the fictional author at the end of each chapter. The book was entertaining, but I've been spoiled for mysteries by Louise Penny - no one compares!”

A reader from Yarmouth Port read *Ask Again, Yes* by Mary Beth Keane: “I don't agree with the reviewers who thought this book was a true reflection of the times and people of NYC and its surrounding communities from 1970's through 2010's. There are even some glaring errors, such as referring to the NYPD Training Academy as academy. Trust me, it's always called or referred to as The Academy. Every NY'er, Irish or any other ethnicity, knows about The Academy. If a coworker says, “My son just got into The Academy,” everyone in the office or job site knows exactly what she means - her son is going to be a NYC cop.”

A reader from Fairhaven read *From New Bedford to Siberia : a Yankee Whaleman in the Frozen North* by Jerome Beatty, Jr: "As a children's book, it hasn't withstood the test of time. As an adventure/true story, it was fantastic! So many exciting things happened to this young man. I'm surprised that we didn't hear more about him while growing up in New Bedford."

A reader from West Yarmouth read *The Mourning Swim* by Mike Bernard: "A charming memoir of the author's life in Yarmouth. In the process of remembering and honoring his family history, he includes many remembrances of activities in Yarmouth that make the reader nostalgic about their own experiences there."

A reader from Norton read *Murder on Cape Cod* by Maddie Day: "This was a cute cozy mystery set on the Cape during the summer time. Got me excited for my upcoming Cape vacation!"

A reader from Melrose read *The Identicals* by Elin Hildenbrand: "A typical "beach read" but doing it in the middle of February instead. Hoping that someday to visit Nantucket, despite being born and raised in MA - I have never been!"

A reader from NORTH ANDOVER read *Abigail Accused* by Juliet Haines Mofford: "It was interesting to read about North Andover / Andover during the Salem Witch Trials- and to learn about some of our town's History and founding families."

A reader from Rochester read *Rochester Journal* by Lucy Loomis: "I learned many incidents that occurred in Rochester history that I had never heard of."

A reader from Fitchburg read *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom: "It was interesting to see the way that Morrie looked at life after his diagnosis, and it was a really touching story to read."

A reader from Northampton read *Paradise City* by Archer Mayor: "I enjoyed the setting of this otherwise-middling police procedural. Mayor did his research - I was especially pleased to see the Amherst College/Five Colleges bunker on Military Road in Amherst featured."

A reader from Leeds read *Small World* by Laura Zigman: "A quirky, believable story about two sisters and the complications of their lives. The detail of the author's writing style was wonderful."

A reader from Norton read *Illumination Night* by Alice Hoffman: "This book was a depressing read!! All of the Island residents inhabiting the novel were deeply troubled individuals with no evolution of character.....until the last few pages in the book. One individual emerged as if out of a fog to find the value of human connection. Hence, the title of the book, Illumination Night??"

A reader from Amesbury read *Delivering the Truth* by Edith Maxwell: "I enjoyed reading a book set in my town in a time before I knew it! Plus it's a genre I don't usually read, which was a nice change of pace."

A reader from Springfield read *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom: "This year I am participating in the #massbookreadingchallenge. February's challenge/book is to read one that took place in your city/town/state. My selection, Tuesday's with Morrie by Mitch Albom. What an amazing story showing that life doesn't end after a diagnosis. Making new memories and sharing stories is the way life should always be, until the very end. A new favorite!"



A reader from Allston read *An American marriage* by Tayari Jones: "I found it hard to get a book based in my hometown. I opted for one set in my home state. This book opened my eyes to the different experiences others have growing up in such a similar place."

A reader from West Yarmouth read *The Outermost House* by Henry Beston: "I loved reading about Cape Cod almost one hundred years ago; so much has changed, so much has stayed the same. It was a wonderful tale of the beauty that surrounds me on the Cape every day."

A reader from Medway read *Our Missing Hearts* by Celeste Ng: "I am glad I read it. The process of reading it was a slog because the dystopian elements felt so real that I needed some breaks to process and reflect."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Girls of Summer* by Nancy Thayer: "Enjoyed it very much. Nantucket is a very special place and thinking about summer longingly."

A reader from Lunenburg read *It Was Me All Along* by Andie Mitchell: "Amazingly honest and heartwrenching. Relatable."

A reader from Salem read *Images of America: Stoughton* by David Allen Lambert: "I grew up on the south shore in Stoughton, and there aren't really any books that take place in the town all said. This book was interesting as the book was released in 1998, and even from that point things have changed in the town even in the two decades I lived there, which is interesting to see! Lots of stuff I didn't know about the town at all."

A reader from North Falmouth read *The school for good mothers* by Jessamine chan: "Such a wild tale - really enjoyed this dystopian story set in Philadelphia, my home town."

A reader from West Yarmouth read *Death at Woods Hole (An Emily Cabot Mystery)* by Frances McNamara: "I enjoyed this book as I live on Cape Cod and it proved to be an easy read with a decent plot. The points of interest to me were academia related to the plight of women to get ahead in the late 1800's, marine biology research and the whole ambiance around Woods Hole as a quaint village on the Cape."

A reader from Longmeadow read *Housebreaking* by Dan Hope: "It was a break in my norm to read a romance story written by a male author. I could tell there was a distinct difference, with a lot less fluff and more of a gritty reality to how men and women find themselves in entanglements. I found myself missing the fluff, but I did appreciate the different perspective as a change of pace."

A reader from Salem read *Crying in H Mart* by Michelle Zauner: "I loved this Book! Even though it's extremely emotional, she wrote it so beautifully! I was born and raised in Eugene, Oregon, and she captured our shared hometown perfectly. A must-read! I also read *Shoe Dog* for this month's challenge."

A reader from East Bridgewater read *We Ride Upon Sticks* by Quan Barry: "I loved all the quips, for lack of a better term, of life as a HS girl / in 1989 / in Danvers. I went back and forth between the audio book + paperback and couldn't decide if I liked one or the other better. The narrator did a great job with varying voices (and reading in different languages!), but some of the passages were hard to follow on audio since the narration jumped around a bit. This was a fun coming-of-age story and I wish there were plans for it to be on TV/a movie -- I'd love to see *The Claw* or *le Splotch* (not to mention the purple tuxedo!) On screen. Maybe someday..."

A reader from Wilbraham read *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* by Junot Diaz: "Mr. Diaz beautifully weaves the stories of Beli, Lola and Oscar de Leon with each other's, along with how their relationships to their social and cultural environments affect their lives. The result is brilliant!"

A reader from Weymouth read *Mercy Street* by Jennifer Haigh: "Historical fiction? 2015 Yup. This book takes place during that horrible, snowy winter in Boston. Claudia runs Mercy Street, a woman's health center. From her POV the story moves to the story of various protestors outside of the clinic."

A reader from Dracut read *Daring Ladies of Lowell* by Kate Alcott: "Great historical fiction about the textile mills in Lowell and the "girls" working the looms. Their story leads itself to identify the Boot Mills, boarding houses and Boston. Familiarity with the area certainly holds the readers interest."

A reader from Marion read *The Massachusetts Gardener's Companion* by Barbara Gee: "I wish there had been more advice in this book that was actually tailored to Massachusetts. There were a lot of lists of recommended plants, which is fine, but the gist of the book was 'figure it out yourself.'"

A reader from Malden read *Our Missing Hearts* by Celeste Ng: "Our Missing Hearts is a beautifully written book about how racism can be used to make people feel safe, until it doesn't."

A reader from Amherst read *Magic Lessons* by Alice Hoffman: "Fun to read a book set in Mass. and Brooklyn — both places that I have considered home in my life."

A reader from Whately read *House* by Tracy Kidder: "I enjoyed reading a true story about the construction of a new home. Getting the perspective of everyone involved from the owners to the architect and the carpenters was very interesting. And given that the story was local was a bonus."

A reader from Dartmouth read *Caleb's Crossing* by Geraldine Brooks: "Such a sad tale. I wish it had been more from Caleb's point of view than Bethia's."

A reader from Salem read *Robert B. Parker's Stone's Throw* by Mike Lupics: "I enjoy following the series and think the Parkers have found authors who are able to maintain Robert Parker's voice."

A reader from Barrington read *The Great Believers* by Rebecca Makkai: "Interesting cross-section of the art scene in Paris in the 1920's, the AIDS crisis in Chicago in the 1980's, and 2015 "current day" Chicago/Evanston. The title is from a quote from F. Scott Fitzgerald, "My Generation": "We were the great believers. I have never cared for any men as much as for these who felt the first springs when I did, and saw death ahead, and were reprieved -- and who now walk the long stormy summer." Fitzgerald was talking about the young men his age who had survived WWI and now they carried the trauma and the guilt of surviving that time for the rest of their lives. The same can be said for the young gay men (and their families) who lived during the AIDS crisis and saw so many of their friends and colleagues perish. Great book, and I'm grateful the author did the research and interviews for this book when she did."

A reader from Sandwich read *Mad Honey* by Jodi Picoult: "Education book. Enjoyed it."

A reader from Wakefield read *The Woman in the Library* by Sulari Gentill: "I enjoyed the parallel story lines -- it was a book within a book within a book. It was set in Boston and Cambridge so it was nice to read references to familiar places."

A reader from Essex read *The Silence in the Sound* by Dianne C. Braley: "I thought the author did a great job of describing all the conflicting emotions you experience when dealing with loved ones and addiction."

A reader from Tewksbury read *Set on You* by Amy Lea: "It was a cute contemporary romance!"

A reader from Barnstable read *Kaaterskill Falls* by Allegra Goodman: "Another wonderful book that I never would have discovered if not looking for a book taking place near my hometown! About finding your own voice, at any age, in a close knit community."

A reader from Kingston read *Don't Ask Me Where I'm From* by Jennifer De Leon: "This was an eye opening book about a Latina high school student from Boston who was picked to attend a primarily white high school in a suburb. Throughout the book Liliana, the main character navigates her two worlds and learns that where you are from doesn't define you. Truly a wonderful read!"

A reader from South Weymouth read *The Stories Life of AJ Fikry* by Gabrielle Zevin: "The book was a really cute story of find love after loss and transformation, however it lacked depth and we really only saw any character growth in AJ."

A reader from Melrose read *The War for Gloria* by Atticus Lush: "Had so many local references-very emotionally tiring."

A reader from Hopedale read *Haven Point* by Virginia Hume: "Growing up in Maine and spending my summers on our family island, this gave me memories of that. The three different timelines were nice and it all came together at the end."

A reader from Woburn read *Our missing hearts* by Celeste Ng: "I was a bit confused by parts of it but I liked it overall."

A reader from Wakefield read *Down and Out in the Magic Kingdom* by Cory Doctorow: "Whacky, entertaining, and prescient. Popularity as currency doesn't seem farfetched as it did in the early 2000s. Disney lovers will appreciate the tug of war between keeping up with the times and the pull of nostalgia."

A reader from Bourne read *The Cape Cod Mystery* by Phoebe Atwood Taylor: "It was interesting reading a book that takes place in the 1930's about Cape Cod. I didn't guess "who done it" till the end. It wasn't exciting but it was a pleasant read."

A reader from Danvers read *The Heretic's Daughter* by Kathleen Kent: "A stirring portrait of colonial New England during the witchcraft hysteria, this book shined a light on the power of fear and the cruelty of man."

A reader from Hampden read *Hotel Nantucket* by Elin Hilderbrand: "This was a hard read for me. When I closed the book I just thought, "what was the storyline?" There was a lot of characters to follow including a ghost. I couldn't connect with this book and have thought about it many times and just don't understand the meaning behind it."

A reader from Hudson read *New Hampshire* by Robert Frost: "Frost captures scenes of mundane rural life in poems sometimes lyrical and other times meandering."

A reader from Plymouth read *the barbarian nurseries* by Hector Tobar: "If you want to know what it is like living in LA and Orange County, read this book. It covers what life is like there for most people, not just the pretty ones."

A reader from WEYMOUTH read *Tell Me Again How a Crush Should Feel* by Sara Farizan: "Enjoyable and light read depicting a very different upbringing in the greater Boston area than I experienced in my youth. Intended for highschoolers, although the topics covered were way over my head at that age, much better to be read by an actual young adult."

A reader from Northampton read *Total Monsoon* by Sarah Welch: "It has gorgeous illustrations and was an absolutely inspiring."

A reader from Northampton read *The Handmaids Tale* by Margaret Atwood: "As someone who grew up in the Boston area it was so interesting to explore a familiar place in the dystopian setting. I loved this book, it is so prevalent as a young woman in the current political climate of this country, the ending so vague it's both unsettling and comforting."

A reader from Fitchburg read *The Identicals* by Elin Hilderbrand: "This book was very engaging and a quick, easy read. It made me long for the summer days on the cape and the islands. I loved the way it kept referencing Boston too!"

A reader from Belchertown read *You're a Mean One, Matthew Prince* by Timothy Janovsky: "Delightful holiday romp set in the Berkshires."

A reader from Brockton read *Block Party* by Jamie Day: "Really good whodunit with suspicious characters all over the neighborhood. And the relationships among the neighbors are crazy mixed up."

A reader from Reading read *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri: "I had seen the movie THE NAMESAKE. Last week finished reading the book by Jhumpa Lahiri. It is the story of a couple from Bengal, India, who come to live in Cambridge, Massachusetts. I liked the large print book as much as I liked the movie."

A reader from Fitchburg read *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri: "I like how Lahiri told the story of the Ganguli family from multiple perspectives. I particularly appreciate her treatment of Gogol/Nikhil who feels pulled and pushed from both his culture and his name."

A reader from Reading read *Love Story* by Erich Segal: "It is an extremely sad and moving book. Its the love story of a Harvard student from a very wealthy family and a girl student of music from a working-class family. I liked the book a lot."

A reader from Somerset read *Future Home of the Living Gos* by Louise Erdrich: "This book was a creepy look at a possible future where evolution has begun to reverse. At times the pace was slow, but I really enjoyed it."

A reader from Wakefield read *The House in the Pines* by Ana Reyes: "Interesting mystery. Quick read-wanted a bit more for the ending but it was interesting."

A reader from Reading read *Dirtbag, Massachusetts* by Issac Fitzgerald: "The story of a young man growing up in a dysfunctional family in Massachusetts. He was lucky he did not die of a drug overdose."

A reader from SOUTH YARMOUTH read *The Boston Girl* by Anita Diamant: "I really enjoyed how I felt like I was having a conversation with the protagonist throughout this book! It was fun to read about places that I know, too!"

A reader from Sandwich read *The Maytrees* by Dillard: "Beautiful nature writing. Moving story."

A reader from Franklin read *The Suburbs Have Secrets* by Barbara Wallace: "Not a bad story per se, but definitely not for me. I was definitely not the intended demographic for this book but despite that I found it to be an easy read and it was nice supporting a local author."

A reader from Braintree read *Murder by the Book* by Lauren Elliott: "This cozy mystery was a fun read with an intriguing mystery and lovable characters in a small coastal town in Massachusetts."

A reader from Andover read *The Hotel Nantucket* by Elin Hilderbrand: "Despite setting her books all in the same place (ironically a part of my state I've never visited before despite living here for 40 years), she never fails to capture my attention and make me fall in love with her characters. This title was no exception."

A reader from Andover read *Fly Girl* by Ann Hood: "Interesting memoir of the golden age of flying and shows how much has changed in only 30 years or so in Boston and around the world."

A reader from Santa Cruz read *Stone By Stone* by Robert M Thorson: "Very interesting. I grew up in New England and always wanted to know more about the stone walls."

A reader from Berkley read *The Bone Garden* by Tess Gerritsen: "I loved the Massachusetts setting and it was an entertaining book!"

A reader from Northampton read *Among schoolchildren* by Tracy Kidder: "Really loved it! A great story about the school system in Holyoke - struggles, successes, humans."

A reader from TEWKSBURY read *Boy21* by Matthew Quick: "Solid story of friendship with complexities of community and culture."

A reader from Stow read *Alone* by Lisa Gardner: "So many twists and turns I never knew who to believe. A true psychological thriller!"

A reader from East Weymouth read *Boys of Alabama* by Genevieve Hudson: "Being from AL, I didn't love the stereotypes portrayed, especially about poorer areas of the state being uneducated."

A reader from Manchester read *Dirtbag, Massachusetts* by Isaac Fitzgerald: "Beautifully written. Candid and honest. It reminded me of Andre Debus's Townie, but Fitzgerald has a writing style and voice all his own."

A reader from Scituate read *Spells for lost things* by Jenna Evans Welch: "It was a really good book. One of my favorites."

A reader from NORTH READING read *The House in the Pinea* by Ana Reyes: "The twist was too little too late for me! Pacing was fine, plot was...not. Oh well!"

A reader from WAKEFIELD read *Walden* by Henry David Thoreau: "Very reflective and slow paced."

A reader from Wenham read *Eight Perfect Murders* by Peter Swanson: "Clever concept, with twist near the end. I enjoyed it. Quick, fun read."

A reader from Taunton read *Spitting Images: A Harry Esten Mystery* by Julien Ayotte: "From Cape Cod to Boston with a mix of FBI agent/detectives from Rhode Island, another great piece from local author, Julien! While I kept thinking I knew what was happening before it happened, the ending caught me by surprise!"

A reader from Yorba Linda read *The Last Romantics* by Tara Conklin: "I enjoyed many of the references to the local areas in Connecticut. And I related to a lot of the book's themes of family dysfunction, tragedy, love, perseverance and relationships."

A reader from Wareham read *Split Image* by Robert Parker: "This book was was funny to read as a relaxing, enjoyable mystery. It is one of the Jesse Sone stories."

A reader from Newton read *The Year of the Horses* by Courtney Maum: "I enjoyed this memoir about growing up riding horses, then returning to the sport years later and finding solace with animals. It resonates with me and the feeling I get when I get to spend uninterrupted time with my animals. It takes place in CT which is where I am from!"

A reader from WEST ROXBURY read *Run* by Ann Patchett: "Still reading....."

A reader from Wenham read *Ethan Frome* by Edith Wharton: "This was a classic that's been on my list for a long time. I really enjoyed it!"

A reader from Beverly read *The Boston Girl* by Anita Diamant: "Loved the writing style in the form of storytelling. Once in a while there was a sentence or two that brought you back to remember that she was telling the story to her granddaughter, and it wasn't just an author writing."

A reader from WILBRAHAM read *The Circus Fire: A True Story of an American Tragedy* by Stewart O'Nan: "I grew up in West Hartford and was always aware of the circus fire in Hartford in 1944, although no one I knew was there. (My dad also grew up in West Hartford and would have been around 15 at the time.) The book is extremely compelling as it traces the movements of many attendees before the fire including some who would not survive it so you find yourself thinking, "No! Don't go! Stay in Southampton!"

A reader from Sandwich read *The Paper Palace* by Miranda Cowley Heller: "Yuck. Everything which could go wrong did to the point where it got ridiculous."

A reader from Sandwich read *Wash Ashore: A Tale of Cape Cod* by Mary Petiet: "An uplifting story of a surprise inheritance in a place I love. An added bonus for me was the clam chowder recipe - I always enjoy trying new recipes."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *The Grip: the 1918 Pandemic and a City Under Siege* by Linda N. Hixon: "This is a collection of facts and short biographies of the city of Worcester, MA during the 1919 pandemic."

A reader from Brookline read *The Family Chao* by Lan Samantha Chang: "Sweeping multi-generational family drama and an immigrant/first gen experience from China to rural WI."

A reader from Hampden read *Mystic River* by Dennis Lehane: "Loved the story, especially the parts about the city. I lived there for four years."

A reader from Southborough read *Little Women* by Louisa May Scott: "I'm a huge fan of classics and loved this one!"

A reader from Hampden read *Writing from the Center* by Scott Russell Sanders: "Focus is on how the landscape former the people who populate the center of our country - land of my birth - honestly never gave it as much thought prior to reading these essays. Have not gotten through the entire book as yet but it will be in my library and know I will keep going back to his prose."

A reader from Stoneham read *Make way for ducklings* by Robert McCloskey: "Even though I've lived In Massachusetts all my life I don't think I'd ever read Make Way for Ducklings! I've seen the statues and ridden the Swan boats but only just read the book for this challenge. It's an iconic story and deserves its place in our literary history. Wonderful illustrations and a joy to read and listen to on audiobook!"

A reader from Reading read *Caleb's Crossing* by Geraldine Brooks: "Very educational about Martha's Vineyard. I loved the book!"

A reader from Salem read *Big Summer* by Jennifer Weiner: "I didn't like this one! I appreciated the contrast between the superficiality of the summer folks vs the grittier more salt of the earth representation of those who live on the Cape, but the dialogue was inauthentic, the characters were unlikable, and the plot was as unrealistic."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *The Good Luck of Right Now* by Matthew Quick: "Looking for the positive in unfortunate circumstances."

A reader from Dracut read *Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zevin: "I loved the circular nature of the relationship between Sam and Sadie. Their life circumstances brought them together and despite years of them holding on to grudges against the others, they always return to one another. A love story that is not romantic, beautifully told with video games being the backdrop. You can always reset."

A reader from Franklin read *The Revolutionary Samuel Adams* by Stacy Schiff: "I thought this book was so poorly written. It had so much potential considering the subject matter, but was incredibly hard to follow."

A reader from Needham read *Vigil Harbor* by Julia Glass: "This novel touches on a variety of issues that will have a great impact in the not so distant future such as climate change, economic inequality and generational conflict by painting a picture of times to come in New England. The author uses an interesting technique of introducing a lot of characters. The reader may wonder, where are we going with this? when she ties it altogether."

A reader from Wellesley read *Before the Fall* by Noah Hawley: "Good mystery thriller. Hard to put down and will keep you up all night!"

A reader from Wilmington read *Dirtbag Massachusetts* by Isaac Fitzgerald: "Such a beautiful read!!"

A reader from Somerville read *On Beauty* by Zadie Smith: "I absolutely loved how On Beauty complicated the idea of a static home town/city/state/place and the consequent ways we form our

identity around it. Campus novels that poke fun at hyperserious Massachusetts collegiate culture are the best.”

A reader from East Sandwich read *Run* by Ann Patchett: “I loved the messy family storyline, but this one fell a bit short for me, especially compared to Patchett's others.”

A reader from Andover read *Anatomy* by Dana Schwartz: “A great slow burn love story mixed with action and suspense. Set in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1817 and following a young woman’s desire to be the first woman surgeon.”

A reader from Braintree read *Robert B. Parker's Debt To Pay* by Reed Farrel Coleman: “As an avid reader of Robert Parker's series, I unfortunately found this novel to be sadistically violent and unsettling. I may not continue reading the Jesse Stone series.”

A reader from Amherst read *Writers & Lovers* by Lily King: “Really enjoyable. Fun to read a book set in a place I spent some time as a teenager.”

A reader from Woods Hole, MA read *Lethal Tides* by Catherine Muesebeck: “This was an excellent book to read. Learned more about previous and current residents of Woods Hole. I also learned more about my father's service as a SeaBee during WWII in the Pacific arena.”

A reader from shrewsbury read *The five star weekend* by Elin hilderbrand: “Great story about friendship.”

A reader from Seekonk read *Lucy by the Sea* by Elizabeth Strout: “I liked the character’s voice. At times I felt like Lucy was talking to us. I enjoyed the descriptions of the ocean in Maine.”

A reader from Shrewsbury read *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* by Elizabeth George Speare: “I loved it even more than I did decades ago.”

A reader from Easthampton read *Because I Could Not Stop for Death* by Amanda flower: “Well researched and historically accurate. I thought the resolution of the mystery was a bit forced but enjoyed reading a portrayal of Emily Dickinson as a self-possessed and determined young woman.”

A reader from Andover read *Love Hate & Clickbait* by Liz Bowery: “The book filled my need for a fake dating trope. It was so good I died inside and read it every chance I got.”

A reader from Malden read *Reflections from a Movable Chair* by Andre Dubus: “Andre captures the pain of his life in a wheelchair with his usual grace and humor!”

A reader from Plymouth read *This Land is Their Land* by David: “Enlightening book about the real story of the pilgrims and the Wampanoag tribe.”

A reader from Swampscott read *The Heretic's Daughter* by Kathleen Kent: “It was an interesting perspective to hear the story told from an adolescent daughter, with a fraught relationship with her mother, and the pain/confusion/joy she faced throughout the journey. It was beautifully written.”

A reader from WAKEFIELD read *Murder at Breakheart Hill Farm* by Heath and Simcox: “Great story, could not believe I had never heard of this mystery before. Suggested read if you are from north shore of Boston.”



A reader from Woburn read *3000 Degrees: The True Story of a Deadly Fire and the Men Who Fought It* by Sean Flynn: "I grew up in Worcester and remember the Cold Storage fire. Flynn's book is an incredibly detailed telling of the event, and captures all the emotions, making it feel like the reader is right there. Powerful and incredibly emotional."

A reader from BEVERLY read *The Revolutionary, Sam Adams* by Stacey Schiff: "This book taught me more about how the political will to fight Great Britain for independence was driven by a few men and women who truly believed it was the right thing to do for the colonists. I never knew how influential was Sam Adams until I read this book."

A reader from Boston/ Yarmouth read *A Year by the Sea: Thoughts of an Unfinished Woman* by Joan Anderson: "The ocean in this book is its own character! I appreciated the way the titles of each chapter parallel the reflections, growth and development of the author."

A reader from Dracut read *The Boston Girl* by Anita Diamant: "Heartfelt coming of age story set in Boston, centered on the youngest daughter of immigrant parents, born in 1900. The events of the first half of the century seen through her eyes as a young Jewish woman trying to find her place in the world."

A reader from Hatfield read *Running with Scissors* by Augusten Burroughs: "Sometimes hard to keep reading (i.e., disturbing material), but worth it overall. Parts were quite funny. Fun to know the places he writes about!"

A reader from Beverly read *Sam: A Novel* by Allegra Goodman: "While it was fun reading a story that included various landmarks in my town, the book itself is a rather bland YA coming of age/romance story that isn't a genre I enjoy unless the characters are much more compelling."

A reader from PLYMOUTH read *This is US* by David Marin: "Male single-parent adoption was frustrating, hard and rewarding for David Marin. I grew up in Santa Maria at that time. Pappy's is family run--no meth there...His consistent assertion of racism in a hispanic community is laughable, however."

A reader from Woods Hole read *A Savage Place* by Robert Parker: "Robert Parker's Spencer books are a deep dive in Boston and Massachusetts. Fun to revisit the series."

A reader from Sutton read *Defending Jacob* by William Landay: "Fun read kept at the edge of my seat and definitely knew the locations mentioned in Newton and Cambridge so it felt truly set near where I have lived and worked!"

A reader from Rochester read *Official 250th Anniversary Record* by Town of Rochester: "In the summer of 1936 a gala event for the ages celebrated one of the oldest towns on the state in the midst of the Great Depression. The three day party included a clambake, banquet, parade, sports, fireworks, religious service and a pageant that drew a crowd of over 4,000 people."

A reader from Irvine read *Deadlock* by Sara Parentsky: "I enjoy Sara Parentsky crime stories. Living in Chicago, it's fun to recognize areas and streets of the city in her books."

A reader from Beverly read *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* by Ocean Vuong: "The setting and situations were familiar to me having grown up in a Connecticut city, but the perspective on these spaces provided by an immigrant LGBTQ+ voice introduced a completely new place to me (though

reading greetings like, "What's new?" felt a lot like home). The writing was beautiful, even when describing really difficult things."

A reader from Westford read *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood: "I thought the book was very well written, but it reminded me of a book that a high school English class would read and analyze."

A reader from Hopkinton read *Eight Perfect Murders* by Peter Swanson: "Creepy! I found the narrator/main character very dark, mysterious and sometimes confusing. I liked the overall premise of the story and did not see the end coming in the way it did. Also liked Boston as the setting!"

A reader from Plainville read *Common Ground* by J Anthony Lukas: "Essential reading for everyone who loves Boston history."

A reader from BARNSTABLE read *The Kind Worth Killing* by Peter Swanson: "Enjoy Peter Swanson books...have read several....hard to put down."

A reader from Saugus read *Don't Ask Me Where I'm From* by De Leon: "Thought provoking book about what it is like to be a student in the METCO program."

A reader from Buckland read *Who Knew? Roadside Revelations in Western Massachusetts* by Robert E. Weir: "There are many books about eastern and central MA but few that focus on western MA focusing on Berkshire, Franklin, Hampton and Hampshire counties, also known as the Pioneer Valley. The essays focus on what archaeologist/historian, James Deetz called "small things forgotten". The author states in the beginning of the book that small things forgotten refers to objects, structures and ways of life that often puzzle modern viewers. I enjoyed reading these well written back stories of many spots I have driven by or visited in my 50 years of living in Pioneer Valley. And yes, I have been curious about many of the places, objects structures and local lore I have encountered here."

A reader from Sandwich read *The Big House: A Century in the Life of an American Summer Home* by George Howe Colt: "I live on the Cape and it was wonderful and enlightening to read about the settling of an early community in Bourne and how one particular house has been used, loved, and passed down by/among family members over a century. And how difficult and financially strapping it can be to save a house when later generations of the family are in different financial circumstances from the original builders/owners."

A reader from Salem read *The House of the Seven Gables* by Nathaniel Hawthorne: "Hawthorne delivers with vivid style and overt symbolism. It's a little ridiculous but I'm glad I've finally knocked this one off my reading list."

A reader from Carver read *A Fine Balance* by Rohinton Mistry: "It's a long book at 600 pages, but in depth character-driven story about life in India in 1975. Highly recommend!"

A reader from Sharon read *It Ends With Us* by Colleen Hoover: "This a quick and easy read about a woman stopping a family history of spousal abuse. A fictional account of an author who had to deal with abuse."

A reader from Chelmsford read *Townie* by Andre Dubus III: "Honestly, this book was not for me, though I do appreciate fiction works by Mr. Dubus."

A reader from Brockton read *The Perfect Storm* by Sebastian Junger: "This book was set in MA and the story of commercial fishing reminded me of my hometown, New Bedford. It told the story of how that storm hit and all the lives that were in peril."

A reader from Hanson read *The Red Coat: A Novel of Boston* by Dolley Carlson: "It was recommended by friends at the Hanson Library and it was wonderful. My father grew up in South Boston and it was so familiar to me. He even went to Gate of Heaven as well. I really enjoyed it."

A reader from Jordan read *Haunted Onondaga County* by Neil K MacMillan: "Some interesting local history, but perhaps not the best written book I've ever read."

A reader from Hamilton read *Two Truths and a Lie* by Meg Mitchell Moore: "Fun to hear local places mentioned."

A reader from Wilbraham read *City of Light* by Lauren Belfer: "A mystery/suspense story of the glory days of Buffalo NY set in the early 1900s. The introduction of electricity harnessed from the Niagara River before the water plumes over the Falls and the Pan American Exposition all play a role in the success of the city and its inhabitants."

A reader from Bolton read *Beaverland: How One Weird Rodent Made America* by Leila Philip: "Amazing how much a small animal can change our world."

A reader from Franklin read *That Boston Girl* by Anita Daimont: "I really enjoyed the book. Reading about Boston at the turn of the century up through the 80's and knowing the locations was great."

A reader from HYANNIS read *Helltown* by Casey Sherman: "Since I live on Cape Cod, it was interesting and unnerving to read about places I knew (even though this happened long before we moved here). However, an interesting bit of local history. Could have been a bit less gruesome but the violence wasn't gratuitous, only factual (but still really awful.) I recommended this book if you like true crime."

A reader from New York read *The House of Broken Angels* by Luis Alberto Urrea: "A story about a Mexican American family set in my hometown, San Diego. A mix of humor and heartbreak and the complexities of a big family."

A reader from Beverly read *All Souls* by Michael Patrick MacDonald: "I enjoyed reading this first-person account of growing up in Southie in the 70s and 80s. I grew up in the 90s, in the suburbs of Boston, learning about bussing and the Irish Mafia as history, but this made it real."

A reader from South Easton read *Hooked* by Emily McIntire: "A well written dark romance reimagined Peter Pan."

A reader from Amherst read *The Solace of Open Spaces* by Gretel Ehrlich: "I grew up in Wyoming, and this book captures the landscape and people of my state. The writing is beautiful, capturing the harshness of the landscape, the endless wind, the remoteness of the least populous state in the country. She introduces us to cowboys, ranch women, sheep herders, and others who live and work in Wyoming. There is isolation yet neighbors help each other. The landscape and the people are rugged-have to be given the weather and distance between towns. Breathtaking read. I felt homesick all over again."

A reader from Boston read *Dirtbag Massachusetts* by Isaac Fitzgerald: "Fun memoir, not as great as I'd heard."

A reader from Randolph read *Jane Austen in Scarsdale* by Paula Marantz Cohen: “A book that supposedly was based on Jane Austen’s *Persuasion*, which I haven’t read. Very little reference or detail about the town of Scarsdale. Some of the characters did remind me of people I knew, overly concerned with appearances, wealthy enough to do almost anything to protect them.”

A reader from Enfield read *Ninth House* by Leigh Bardugo: “Toward the end, the last few chapters really kept me on the edge of my seat and I couldn't put it down.”

A reader from MARSTONS MILLS read *Hell Town* by Casey Sherman: “Interesting to read about a serial killer on Cape Cod in the late sixties. This was a fiction based on fact story, and wound in other sensationalized events that were occurring during the same time period throughout the US.”

A reader from Sandwich read *Peter Rabbit* by Thornton Burgess: “Wonderful tales of the life of the animals in the Briar Patch off Gully Lane! Meet such characters as Grandfather Frog, Reddy Fox and Old Mother West Wind.”

A reader from Springfield read *The lost Springfield* by Derek Strahan: “It offered a view not often seen, from times past. But at the same time, you could see new Springfield in the pics of the old Springfield, if you looked hard enough.”

A reader from Hampden read *Hungry Hill* by Carole O'malley Gaunt: “I loved it! I grew up on Hungry Hill, a section of Springfield, and I loved my childhood. This book brought back a lot of memories. The book itself is quite sad, at times, but very well written.”

A reader from Irvine read *The Gold Coast Three Californias* by Kim Stanley Robinson: “Future setting with unbelievably horrible traffic! I appreciate what we have now in 2023.”

A reader from Hampden read *Murder on Bearskin Neck* by Gunilla Caulfield: “Interesting plot, good characters.”

A reader from Amherst read *The Patriot Witch (Traitor to the Crown)* by C. C. Finlay: “Didn't think I'd ever read a book about a male witch, who was also a Minuteman from Lexington fighting the Brits (and their nefarious magic). Weird and kind of gruesome too. Provides an anti-theory about why the colonists won the revolution, namely that they had magic on their side. Such a strange read!”

A reader from Hudson read *Hester* by Laurie Albanese: “This historical novel taking place in Salem, Massachusetts imagines the origin of Hester Prynne's story. Told through the perspective of Isobel Gamble, it depicts what life was like during this time period for a young woman attempting to survive on her own in a new country. It makes a wonderful tale to compare and contrast with Hawthorne's "The Scarlet Letter". I would like this book to be required reading in high school for when students are studying Hawthorne's work. I enjoyed the book immensely!”

A reader from Fitchburg read *The Heretic's Daughter* by Kathleen Kent: “Well developed characters in a story based in the town of Salem, MA. Haunting portrayal of those accused of witchcraft.”

A reader from Los Alamos read *Death .comes for the Archbishop* by Willa Cather: “After living in NM the past 11 years, I savored this book with its incredible descriptions of place, its stories of our unique cultures, and the glimpse into the rare and deep friendship of the Archbishop and his vicar.”

A reader from Holden read *The Westing Game* by Raskin, Ellen: "This was a wonderful whodunnit book set on the shores of Lake Michigan in Wisconsin (where I was born). I loved the different characters and the schemes each group had to uncover the \*real\* killer. It was great!"

A reader from Fitchburg read *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott: "I've had it on my bookshelf for more than a decade and had never been able to get beyond the first couple of chapters. This reading challenged forced me to pick it up and try to read it again. Happy to say I finished it and enjoyed reading it."

A reader from Middleboro read *Murder in a Cape cottage* by Maddie Day: "Wonderful series (#4), set on upper Cape Cod, not far from where we live. Double time framed novel, as Mackenzie Almeida (Mac) and her fiancée, Tim, find a skeleton in the wall during their cottage renovation. The cozy cape cod book club members join the hunt to uncover the truths behind the decades old murder and a current day about to strike. Love the fully developed multicultural characters in this story along with the close knit family ties."

A reader from Worcester read *Hammer Head* by Nina MacLaughlin: "This is a true story, set in Cambridge MA, about a woman who leaves her job as a writer for a Boston newspaper to take a leap of faith and become a carpenter's assistant. It's a light-hearted, easy, enjoyable read that will empower you to take a chance on yourself too!"

A reader from South Hadley read *One More Cup of Coffee* by Tom Pappalardo: "I'm allergic to coffee, so it was interesting to get a viewpoint of my side of the state from a series of locations that I would never really be in!"

A reader from Erving read *Coyote* by Catherine Reid: "It was interesting mostly because I know the author's family and recognized many people mentioned in the book. My hometown is Greenfield, which is also the home town of the Reid family. Though I'm not particularly excited about studying coyotes, I did find aspects about Ms Reid's research quite interesting."

A reader from Plymouth read *Plymouth Undercover* by Pamela Kelley: "It wasn't the kind of book I typically read, so it wasn't my favorite. It was the first time I'd read a book that takes place in my hometown though so that was cool."

A reader from STOUGHTON read *Conversion* by Katherine Howe: "A compelling view of the way stress affects young women."

A reader from Fitchburg read *Fight or Flight* by Samantha Young: "Unfortunately, this book had very unlikeable characters."

A reader from Peabody read *One of us is lying* by McManus: "This book is different and the characters are very developed which I enjoyed. Although a young group of characters I enjoyed it."

A reader from Methuen read *She's Up To No Good* by Sara Goodman Confino: "Perfect for February's school vacation week! This fast-paced novel is set in the fictional beach community of Hereford on Cape Ann with a cast of very likable characters searching and ultimately finding their first and forever loves."

A reader from Seekonk read *The hotel Nantucket* by Elin Hilderbrand: "I enjoyed this book. Because the author has lived 28 years full time on Nantucket, she is able to immerse you into it 'feel' of Nantucket."

A reader from Uxbridge read *More Than Common Powers of Perception: The Diary of Elizabeth Rogers Mason Cabot* by edited by P A M Taylor: "This reflective woman kept a diary from the age of 9 (around 1834) and stopped her diary in 1906! How amazing! Her inner thoughts show us how we are still the same as we suffer turmoil, loss, fall in love. She wrote feelings that reflected mine!"

A reader from Florence read *Flutter, Kick* by Anna V. Q. Ross: "Beautiful book of poetry by a Dorchester author. Loved her take on memory, mothering, migration, childhood, violence, and more."

A reader from Melrose read *The rise of Silas Lapham* by William Dean Howells: "I liked the post-Civil War setting with the development of Boston's Back Bay. I also liked the contrast of Silas the crude, brash, self-made capitalist, and the genteel but ineffectual Bostonian Brahmins."

A reader from Braintree read *The Talking Drum* by Lisa Braxton: "This is an unfortunately realistic story told from the perspectives of various Black characters, about urban redevelopment in a fictional Massachusetts small city forcing residents out of their homes and businesses -- mostly low-income and middle-income people of color, many of them immigrants who have built lives and livelihoods in the neighborhood of the city known as Petite Africa. A good debut novel by a local author!"

A reader from Woods Hole read *Murder at the Lobstah Shack* by Maddie Day: "Took place in a small Cape Cod village like the one I live in. The familiar setting, government type and customs were the best part. Held my attention when I was driving."

A reader from Fitchburg read *The Transcendentalists and Their World* by Robert A. Gross: "This is a very thorough look at the subject. I like how, even in describing individuals' squabbles and inconsistencies, he deals graciously with them."

A reader from Melrose read *Dying of Politeness* by Geena Davis: "I enjoyed this book alot. I didn't realize Geena Davis was from Wareham, MA and went to BU. Thoroughly entertaining!"

A reader from Pepperell read *Separation Anxiety* by Laura Zigman: "The main character's awkwardness and witty observations were funny and thought provoking. I loved how the story was set mostly in Cambridge, MA with some jaunts around Massachusetts and New England."

A reader from Sunderland read *The Revolutionary: Samuel Adams* by Stacy Schiff: "A little over-the-top in places. This book gives the impression that the American Revolution was single-handedly instigated by Samuel Adams. However, it was interesting to get some in-depth details of the politics of the time."

A reader from Beverly read *The Perfect Storm* by Sebastian Junger: "I've avoided this book because it was a very big deal growing up in Gloucester and seeing it made into a movie when I was young. I was surprised to find the fishermen and women were treated with a lot of respect throughout the book and I even learned a few things about Gloucester I didn't know."

A reader from Weymouth read *Hester* by Laurie Lico Albanese: "I enjoyed this novel's premise that the heroine Isobel Gamble was the inspiration for Nathaniel Hawthorne's Hester Prynne in *The Scarlet Letter*. Although Isobel Gamble is Scottish she immigrated to Salem, Massachusetts and ultimately had an affair with the young Nat Hawthorne who was an aspiring writer. Aspects of Isobel's personality and her ensuing pregnancy and the father never being named by her, become some of the underpinnings of *The Scarlet Letter*."

A reader from Framingham read *The Boston Girl* by Anita Diamant: "I loved the way the book's historical fiction made me see parts of Boston in a whole new way. I had previously only heard stories of Jewish families in tenements in New York and enjoyed learning about that history in my home state."

A reader from WAKEFIELD read *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom: "Nice book with an uplifting message. I felt like I got to know Morrie and wished he was my grandpa. Good little nuggets of advice from a professor in my area."

A reader from Elbridge read *Last Summer at the Golden Hotel* by Elyssa Friedland: "This was a nicely nostalgic novel about the Borscht Belt hotels-the Catskills in the 50's, 60's and into the 80's. This was about a hotel owned by two families, spanning three generations. Sadly, the old hotel goes the way of all things, but the 3rd generation begins anew, and the 4th generation is waiting in the wings."

A reader from Methuen read *The Tree stand* by Jay Atkinson: "This was a great book and the stories. Once you start it you can't put it down."

A reader from Boylston read *The Book That Matters Most* by Ann Hood: "The interweaving of the mother (Ava) and daughter's (Maggie) stories was an interesting technique to explore character and setting. From the streets of Providence, where I spent a lot of time during college, to the streets of Paris, where I've never been, the connection between the past and the present unfolds in a somewhat predictable ending, but an enjoyable read nonetheless."

A reader from Cambridge read *Down to the River* by Anne Whitney Pierce: "Complex and riveting family saga set in turbulent 1960s Cambridge MA."

A reader from Salem read *The history of New England* by History Channel: "A rising of New England. It was amazing how fast New England land was developed very fast!"

A reader from Sandwich read *Helltown* by Casey Sherman: "I enjoyed this book. I have followed the Tony Costa murders and this book was informative and entertaining at the same time. Great story."

A reader from Centerville read *The Big House. A Century in the Life of an American Summer House* by George Howe Colr: "This is a memoir of the author's family summer home as well as a history of Boston Brahmins on Cape Cod. My family has been renting at the same group of cottages on Cape for 57 years so the author's nostalgia and desire for things to stay the same struck a chord with me."

A reader from Salem read *Hour of the Witch* by Chris Bohjalian: "Great read from a Vermon author and set in Boston, about an English woman trapped in an abusive marriage who, when she attempts to divorce her husband, ends up accused of witchcraft."

A reader from Lunenburg read *In sickness a memoir* by Barrett Rollins: "Very powerful and raw. A brutally honest reflection on a relationship."

A reader from Worcester read *The Wolves of Andover* by Kathleen Kent: "I liked it. I chose it because I liked other Kathleen Kent novels and this one was no exception. The setting is 17th century Andover and environs."

A reader from Shrewsbury, MA 01545, USA read *The Hotel Nantucket* by Elin Hildebrand: "Entertaining tale of an old hotel that was purchased and restored beyond it's former glory and the staff and guests (and the resident ghost of course ) who came to stay there after it's reopening."

A reader from Sandwich read *Sea Captains of Cape Cod* by Michael V Pregot: "I enjoyed reading the origins of each Cape town, some history on a lot of the popular surnames heard on the Cape, and interesting maritime info."

A reader from East Bridgewater read *Magic Lessons: the prequel to Practical Magic* by Alice Hoffman: "On a recommendation from my best friend I started this series with this book and fell in love with it! Can't wait to read the rest! Since my son lives in Salem, it's even more fascinating."

A reader from Melrose read *The Elusive Ideal* by Adam R. Nelson: "A well-written and detailed history of educational opportunity initiatives in Boston over many decades."

A reader from Seekonk read *Wild Women of Boston...* by Dina Vargo: "It was an interesting book about a variety of women in Boston's history who made as much of an impact as the men we normally read about in Massachusetts' history."

A reader from Lowell read *The Factory Witches of Lowell* by C. S. Malerich: "It was a bit dry for my tastes, but I enjoyed the imagery of it taking place right in downtown during the mills' prime time. It was a unique take of the time period while adding a subtle, welcoming lesbian plot making it feel genuine and not like a pity party of an identity crisis."

A reader from BELCHERTOWN read *The Boston Girl* by Anita Diamant: "Great way to weave immigrant history and engaging fiction together with a very spunky main character who defied the 'rules' for women in early 20th century Boston."

A reader from Conroe read *Alice & Gerald: A Homicidal Love Story* by Ron Franscell: "I was surprised by how detailed it was and that I hadn't heard about it happening since it was so close to home."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Dirtbag Massachusetts* by Isaac Fitzgerald: "I knew north central MA was a little rough, but the author painted quite a picture of poverty and dysfunction. I'm glad he made it to the other side since so many do not."

A reader from Harwich read *The outermost house* by Henry Beston: "A classic tale of a year spent alone in a beach shack on the shores of the North Atlantic on Cape Cod. The house has now been washed away but the story of Beston's time there remains."

A reader from Mount Washington read *Big Swiss* by Jen Beagin: "Hudson, NY is not exactly my home town, but it is very close by! What an amazing, intriguing, and very different story this is. I found it endlessly engaging."

A reader from Scituate read *The female of the species* by Mindy mcginnis: "YA book written under the guise of revealing Rape culture and slut shaming. Instead glorifies and promotes it with male POV. Lessons only learned when many people are dead. Took place in Ohio. Not sure if that contributed in any way to the story."

A reader from Sutton read *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann: "Learned a lot about history of my home state."

A reader from Haverhill read *Dreamland* by Nicholas Sparks: "Great love story by a master! I have loved Nicholas Sparks from the beginning. I always feel like I have gone home when I read one of his books!"



A reader from Sutton read *Last Night in Twisted River* by John Irving: "The northern New England settings frame John Irving's imagery well, as a familiar backdrop to the story-telling."

A reader from Hopkinton read *Feeding a Yen* by Calvin Trillin: "Calvin Trillin was born and raised in Kansas City. He came to fame as a writer for the New Yorker, but always stayed grounded in his home town. This book was a series of short stories about his food adventures around the world. One was set in Kansas City, but several others mentioned his upbringing as a foundation for his curiosity and humor."

A reader from Plymouth read *Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zevin: "I loved this book. It's such a great novel that weaves in gaming history."

A reader from SANDWICH read *The Pioneers* by David McCullough: "Excellent history of Ohio and a small group of Massachusetts pioneers who fulfill the Northwest Ordinance 1787, make a perilous journey to the wilderness along the Ohio River, settle the Northwest Territory & Marietta."

A reader from Boxford read *The Lowells of Massachusetts* by Nina Sankovitch: "I grew up in Lowell Mass and this book was fascinating for it's history."

A reader from Northborough read *The House in the Pines* by Ana Reyes: "This was a mystery set in Western Massachusetts. Parts of the book were really good, but overall it wasn't a favorite. It was little slow and not totally believable."

A reader from Franklin read *Second Sight* by Philip Craig & William Tapply: "Two of my favorite fictional characters solve mysteries on a beautiful - and real - Massachusetts island. Perfect reading for winter evenings."

A reader from Seekonk read *Dirtbag Massachusetts* by Issac Fitzgerald: "An honest, insightful, humorous memoir that had me cringing at times reading about what he dealt with in his family and the many jobs he held. I enjoy his appearances on the Today show."

A reader from Wrentham read *The book of Magic* by Alixe Hoffman: "A charming and satisfying sequel to much loved series by an author with a devoted following. At its heart is a restorative story of love , loss and resilience."

A reader from East Taunton read *Nicholas A Massachusetts Tale* by Peter Arenstam: "I like that this book took me through several important historical places in Massachusetts."

A reader from Lynnfield read *Sloppy Firsts* by Megan McCafferty: "This was definitely a bit young for me and very much of its time (2001), but I grew up in New Jersey and went to the shore a lot, so it brought back those memories!"

A reader from Beverly read *Sam* by Allegra Goodman: "I enjoyed the book and really enjoyed the references to Beverly."

A reader from Haverhill read *A Reasonable Doubt* by Arthur Veasey III: "A great murder mystery and the local references make it even more entertaining."

A reader from SANDWICH read *The Paper Palace* by Miranda Cowley Heller: "I loved how the book spanned- simultaneously- a 24 hour period, starting with a furtive backyard encounter; and over 50 years of relationships, familial and close friends, that led to this opening scene."

A reader from Amherst read *The Mouse of Amherst* by Elizabeth Spires: "This book is utterly charming. It is a great way to introduce young readers to poetry and Emily Dickinson. I loved it."

A reader from Woods Hole read *Jane's Island* by Marjorie Hill Allen: "Lovely story of being young in a scientific community. My own young experiences in the same community were almost identical."

A reader from Bolton read *Northern borders* by Howard Mosher: "It reminded me of the best times I had growing up with my grandfather."

A reader from Harwich read *Writers & Lovers* by Lily King: "Well-written, with nicely developed characters, and sprinkled with many literary references, *Writers & Lovers* kept this retired English teacher quite entertained!"

A reader from Woods Hole read *the sweater chopshop* by Chrisina French: "Exciting, creative ideas."

A reader from Attleboro read *The Terrible Storm* by Carol Otis Hurst: "Great historical fiction picture book!"

A reader from Worcester read *The Outermost House* by Henry Beston: "The author's descriptive narrative about living at the sea shore inspired me. I could picture myself living on a Cape Cod Beach in Ma."

A reader from Rockland read *The Woman in the Library* by Dilan Gentill: "I love mysteries, love the Boston Public Library, so this story within a story was a very enjoyable read for me!"

A reader from Duxbury read *Conversion* by Katherine Howe: "This narrative based on true events built a cool parallel between modern times and the Salem witch trials. I liked being familiar with the area, I don't think I read books set in Massachusetts often, to be honest. A lot of it also took place in February, which was an added bonus."

A reader from Dracut read *Little Weirds* by Jenny Slate: "I enjoyed this humorous book of weird little essays from Massachusetts native Jenny Slate."

A reader from Middleboro read *Running with scissors* by Augusten Burroughs: "A very interesting memoir detailing the author's childhood, which although traumatic, is written in a humorous way."

A reader from Longmeadow read *Sidonia's Thread* by Hanna Perlstein Marcus: "Wonderful book about a mother and child finding themselves in Springfield MA. After being in Bergen Belsen displaced persons camp after WWII."

A reader from Milton read *The Complicities* by Stacey D'Erasmus: "Beautiful prose, particularly about the landscape (the story mostly took place on the Cape). I was drawn in by the protagonist's claim to "not know" about what was happening with her husband's work and how that impacted every relationship in her life. The entitlement that she espoused was incredible, and yet made her a realistic and relatable character."

A reader from Andover read *The Sweetness of Frogetting* by Kristin Harmel: "Loved this beautiful World War 2 story set on Cape Cod. Intriguing life story."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Blackbird House* by Alice Hoffman: "The book contains a series of stories that take place at a small farm on the outer reaches of Cape Cod. Time periods of the stories range from

the British occupation of New England up to the present. The house changes owners several times and is passed down between generations in other cases. Undercurrents of potential magic (witches and a mysterious blackbird) occur in the stories. The real magic may be the healing power of human relationships. Stories are dramatic and well-told.”

A reader from Beverly read *Golden Girl* by Elin Hilderbrand: “This was a wonderful read and I am glad I picked this author. The book is set in Nantucket and it was very cool to read about places that I have been to before.”

A reader from Worcester read *Living at the City's Green Edge* by Susan Ceccacci: “Well researched and well written book about a neighborhood in Worcester, MA. Many photographs, maps and illustrations add to the overall appeal of the book.”

A reader from Middleborough read *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller: “I’ve seen the play but never read the book. Love to learn about the history of our state.”

A reader from Springfield read *The Wartime Sisters* by Lynda Cohen Loigman: “This historical fiction book is about the Armory in my hometown of Springfield, MA. It was extremely interesting for me to read as I recognized many places and what they had been used for and if they were still around today, I also liked how the author used different chapters from different characters' point of view - this made it a smooth read. There were even a few unexpected twists. Good read for anyone interested in the Armory's history.”

A reader from Sutton read *Aspen Allegations* by Lisa Shea: “Fun to read a mystery set in my town!”

A reader from Amherst read *And We Stay* by Jenny Hubbard: “I struggled with the bleak heterosexuality of this YA novel. However the lyrical prose and poetry well capture the chill and desolation of Amherst in February. And thank to the inclusion of poetry I also want to read more of (and about) Emily Dickinson.”

A reader from Mashpee read *An Egnog to Die For* by Amy Pershing: “This is a cozy mystery. I’m not a huge fan of that genre, but it’s set on Cape Cod where I live so it fits this month’s prompt and it’s also a “foodie” mystery which I like. I did enjoy the setting, but there’s not much depth to the book. Oh right! It’s a cozy mystery!!!”

A reader from Fitchburg read *Vanishing Acts* by Jodi Picoult: “I thought Vanishing Acts was a very emotional book. It asks a lot of tough questions and really makes you think about if it were you.”

A reader from Andover read *Night of the Living Rez* by Morgan Talty: “A moving, funny, raw, beautifully written debut short story collection! The evocative descriptions of northern Maine's forests and rivers were particularly nostalgia inducing.”

A reader from Sandwich read *Sandwich Soldiers, Sailors, Sons* by Stauffer Miller: “A very factual book about the town and people of Sandwich in and around the time of the Civil War.”

A reader from Plainville read *BREAD BAGS AND BULLIES Surviving the 80's* by Steven Manchester: “This book was everything I remember from the town to the people to the times. The detail and even the ADDRESS of the author are so planted in my mind that my own memories blend together with his retelling of his.”

A reader from Beverly read *Ishmael* by Barbara Hambly: "This is an old favorite, combining two of my favorite '60s television shows, Star Trek and Here Come the Brides, the latter set in 19th century Seattle, loosely based on an historic incident, where they brought women from New Bedford to Seattle as wives for the loggers. There are more connections between my two states. For example, Spock is a major character in the book, and was played by Leonard Nimoy, who was a native of Massachusetts."

A reader from Lowell read *Northwest of Boston* by Stephen O'Connor: "The stories in this book are mainly set in my hometown of Lowell MA which was part of the reason I chose this particular collection. I had previously read another of Mr. O'Connor's books entitled Smokestack Lightning which I enjoyed very much. This second volume was a bit disappointing as I thought too many of the stories were more of a "soapbox" for the author to air his views on modern society and its many failings than having a solid plot."

A reader from Salem read *Shutter Island* by Dennis Lehane: "This is a book I had on my list for years. I'd put off reading it because of a spoiler, but the challenge offered an excuse to dig in. Even with the spoiler, Lehane offered enough character development and depth that the story remained intriguing throughout with little idea of how I would get to the known ending."

A reader from TURNERS FALLS read *Gastonia 1929* by John Salmond: "Interesting history of the Luray Mill strike."

A reader from East Falmouth read *The Outermost House* by Henry Beston: "Although I prefer books about people and human interaction, I am glad that I read this book. It has changed the way I look at the beautiful beaches of my Cape Cod home."

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A reader from Belchertown read *Fat Chance, Charlie Vega* by Crystal Maldonado: "I really wanted to find a book set in my home town, but settled for one in my home state. It was good."

A reader from Ludlow read *Hotel Nantucket* by Elin Hilderbrand: "I thought the writing was poor. The author often switched from past to present tense. There were so many character perspectives that it made it seem like no one character was compelling enough to warrant an entire book."

A reader from Walpole read *Fellowship Point* by Alice Elliott Dark: "I was looking forward to this one, always like to read books set in Maine, but I was disappointed. I had several issues with this book, but the one that bothered me the most was the description of the "locals", particularly because I grew up as one in a small coastal Maine town. Some authors "get" Maine, this author did not."

A reader from Blandford read *Dirtbag Massachusetts* by Isaac Fitzgerald: "A raw look at the life of the author growing up with family issues. I just re-read this and was still fully engaged throughout."

A reader from Andover read *The Heretic's Daughter* by Kathleen Kent: "This book is well-written historical fiction with fabulous local detail. Intriguing and unique insights into a time of religious and puritannical fervor, this relates the story of a family in the vortex of the actual witch trial hysteria. This is told from the viewpoint of a descendant who has been brought up to respect her distant matriarch."

A reader from Lynnfield read *Writers & lovers* by Lily King: "I loved the book! The character was so likable and down on her luck. I thought the ending wrapped things up too quickly."

A reader from Lynnfield read *Promised Land* by Robert B Parker: "Quick read, great New England based detective story."

A reader from Salem read *Starting From Here* by Lisa Jenn Bigelow: "I was very surprised to find a young adult novel set in Kalamazoo, Michigan, my hometown. I enjoyed the book for its well-drawn characters and engaging coming-of-age plot. Good writing made even more interesting by mention of some locations and institutions I recognized, including a bar I went to in college. Oddly enough, Jane Smiley's book, *A Dangerous Business*, also includes a fictional character who is from Kalamazoo. I read that this month, too, without knowing about the connection ahead of time. First time I've ever read a novel that features Kalamazoo, let alone two novels!"

A reader from Amherst read *Mrs Bridge* by Evan S Connell: "What a wonderful and insightful critique of my hometown. Felt like I was seeing many of my friends' parents in this book. Excited to read the movie next."

A reader from Auburn read *Recollections of a '49er* by Edward McIlhenny: "Factual account of life and experiences of a genuine sourdough from 1850's onward."

A reader from Melrose read *Caleb's Crossing* by Geraldine Brooks: "It took a little while to get accustomed to the early colonial speech, but I deeply enjoyed the book and its subject matter. I appreciated the way the Wampanoag people were drawn as complex individuals within a thriving community. The narrator's arc seems somewhat unlikely but was a useful and interesting plot device."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Summer of 69* by Elin Hilderbrand: "Easy thoughtful read."

A reader from Beverly read *the map of true places* by Brunonia Barry: "So many plot twists - it kept me guessing until the very end. Loved all of the references to Salem that I have visited frequently over the years."

A reader from YARMOUTH PORT read *The Keeper of Happy Endings* by Barbara Davis: "This book uses Boston as a background setting. This is a tale which has a happy ending."

A reader from Boston read *The Woman in the Library* by Salaries Gentill: "Great mystery that takes place in Boston!"

A reader from Erving read *The Wolves of Andover* by Kathleen Kent: "I really enjoyed the time and setting of this book. It was interesting to hear the everyday life of people living here so long ago."

A reader from Spencer read *Memories* by Civin, Marty: "Wonderful couch travels learning about former people in my town of Spencer, as well as historical places in town."

A reader from Palmer read *Letting Swift River Go* by Jane Yolen: "Elegiac story of the towns disestablished to make way for Quabbin Reservoir from the perspective of a child living there. Lovely illustrations and a good way to introduce the story to a child, whether they live in MA or in another community where a reservoir was created."

A reader from Scituate read *The Tale of The Scituate Lightkeeper's Daughter* by Richard M. Wainwright: "Fun to reread the story and will pass it along to a small lighthouse fan!"

A reader from Reading read *Boy, Snow, Bird* by Helen Oyeyemi: "This is a captivating book and my first by this author. Set in the Worcester area. I will definitely read more of her work."

A reader from Melrose read *The Boston Girl* by Anita Diamant: "I enjoyed reading about what life was like in Boston in the early 1900's. How a young Jewish girl from such humble beginnings accomplished so much despite the lack of support from parents and the fact that she was female."

A reader from Belchertown read *Writers and Lovers* by Lily King: "With dogged determination (and a wonderful best friend) the main character is able to pull herself up from rock bottom to achieve her dreams and turn her life around."

A reader from Franklin read *The Testaments* by Margaret Atwood: "I first read this book when it was first published a few years ago and enjoyed it even more after this second reading. The story is well-paced, and the multiple narrators' tales are woven together effectively."

A reader from Swampscott read *We All Want Impossible Things* by Catherine Newman: "Heartbreak and humor rolled into one incredible book! I laughed and cried at the same time."

A reader from TEWKSBURY read *Images of America Tewksbury State Hospital* by Ashlynn Rickord Werner and Jon Maynard: "Fascinating look at an institution in the town I live in. I had no clue how big it was in the past!"

A reader from Bolton read *Murder on Cape Cod* by Maddie Day: "This cozy mystery was a fun page-turner. I enjoyed that it was set in one of my favorite vacation spots - Cape Cod."

A reader from Attleboro read *The mysteries of Pittsburgh* by Chabon, Michael.: "I usually do not read fiction. It meandered around, but overall was an enjoyable read, and almost all of the Pittsburgh references were accurate!"

A reader from Beverly read *The Finest Hours* by Tougas and Sherman: "Incredible real-life story though the book gets a bit bogged in details, and the rescue efforts blur."

A reader from Lowell read *The Lullaby of Polish Girls* by Dagmara Dominczyk: "I was really excited to read this because I was born in Poland and grew up there but the book was kind of offensive and problematic. Would not recommend."

A reader from Agawam read *Moby Dick* by Herman Melville: "I thought it was really interesting because it's about a person who liked sailing in the ocean and encountering a whale."

A reader from Reading read *Caleb's Crossing* by Geraldine Brooks: "I enjoyed how this book showed a Harvard education for a male student and a "secret" female. Plus, I read appreciate the author's writing style. Highly recommend!"

A reader from Northampton read *Home Town* by Tracy Kidder: "I learned a lot that I didn't know about my home town, but in certain ways, the picture that Kidder drew didn't reflect my own experience of the town, most likely because Kidder focuses on a police officer, exposing a side of town that is rarely visible to most residents."

A reader from Worcester read *Searching for Atticus* by Janice Harvey: "Janice Harvey's novel about a little girl growing up in 1950s/1960's Worcester, so I felt right at home!"

A reader from Southborough read *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott: "Very long but very worth it."

A reader from PLYMOUTH read *Rescuing Ellisville Marsh* by Eric P. Cody: "This is a wonderful true story about a local environmental effort to save an estuary near my home. There are a lot of great people and natural history mixed together to explain how things can go wrong and then be put right."

A reader from S Yarmouth read *The Soul of an Octopus* by Sy Montgomery: "Fascinating insights into Octopuses. Funny, informative and poignant. I highly recommend it!"

A reader from West Yarmouth read *Haunted Yarmouth Ghosts and legends from the Cape* by Paul Cote and the historical society of old Yarmouth: "Very quick read and really enjoyed learning some history about my town as well as other areas on the Cape. Always been fascinated by paranormal and enjoyed learning about the old homes and different encounters both home owners and visitors experienced."

A reader from Revere read *Blackbird House* by Alice Hoffman: "I loved that the setting is Cape Cod. The author's prose is exquisite and her intertwining themes are so clever. She is a master story teller but I was surprised that she telegraphed what was about to happen in a couple of scenes - unless that was her intention. All in all, I loved the book."

A reader from Franklin read *The Daughters of Temperance Hobbs* by Katherine Howe: "This is the sequel to 'The Physick Book of Deliverance Dane,' and while I preferred the original, this one had the same type of witchy historical facts and fast-paced plot. Set in Boston and Marblehead/ Salem."

A reader from Kingston read *On Beauty* by Zadie Smith: "On Beauty explored the complexities of race, culture, gender, class within family, town, and country. The fictional town of Wellington, Massachusetts and more precisely the university setting highlighted important social issues and problems."

A reader from Ipswich read *The House on Ipswich Marsh: Exploring the Natural History of New England* by William Sargent: "Local author writes about history, botany, zoology and geology of the marshes and beaches of Ipswich, MA. I learned new things about the Town I live in."

A reader from New York read *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri: "This was beautifully written and I enjoyed reading a book set in two of my 'hometowns' - Boston and NYC."

A reader from Somerville read *Downeast: Five Maine Girls and the Unseen Story of Rural America* by Gigi Georges: "Downeast is nonfiction about 5 young women growing up in Washington County, Maine and the decisions they make about their futures. It was partly an introduction to the area, which of course I didn't need having grown up there, but some things have changed since I moved away. I found the lives of these young women pretty interesting, and I appreciated how the author told their stories in the context of the area in a way that was not only non-judgmental but felt like I was really getting the girls' perspectives and the author was sharing their stories more than telling them."

A reader from Franklin read *Saints for All Occasions* by J. Courtney Sullivan: "As an Irish Catholic from MA, I loved and identified with the characters and family dynamics. A great story."

A reader from East Taunton read *Defending Jacob* by William Landay: "Enjoyable with an unexpected twist!"

A reader from Providence read *Mill Stream* by Hortense Lion: “Nicely written historical fiction about characters in RI at the start of the Industrial Revolution. Captivating story, but slightly disappointing ending.”

A reader from Beverly read *SAM* by Allegra Goodman: “I thought it was very emotional and raw, although the writing style wasn’t my favorite. It’s supposed to be set in my hometown but other than a couple of local business name drops, I felt like it could be any beach town in New England.”

A reader from Westborough read *What the Lady Wants* by Renee Rosen: “Less a history of the Marshall Field store in Chicago, more a story of Marshall Field’s long time mistress Delia Spencer as she struggles with the burden of being a socialite in Gilded Age Chicago. She alternates between feeling powerless and feeling that she is the only who can fix the current problematic situation.”

A reader from Amherst read *An American childhood* by Annie Dillard, Janet Stevens: “I liked reading about Pittsburgh Pa., my hometown as it was in the 1950’s.”

A reader from Beverly read *We Rode Upon Sticks* by Quran Barry: “Field hockey, 80s, Danvers, witches. Great book for someone who grew up in the area and can point out the fun landmarks mentioned in the book!”

A reader from Centerville read *Killingly* by Katherine Beutner: “Engaging mystery based on an actual event at Mount Holyoke college over 100 years ago where a student went missing. I loved the local setting and the modern day issues entwined in this mystery.”

A reader from Lowell read *The Factory Witches of Lowell* by C. S. Malerich: “An interesting twist on the Lowell Mill girls story that still maintains the importance of sisterhood and collective bargaining.”

A reader from Reading read *Still Alice* by Lisa Genova: “Thought provoking, beautifully written. Immediately one of my favorites.”

A reader from Arlington read *Last Night at the Lobster* by Stewart O’Nan: “This short novel was about the last night before the closing of a Red Lobster in Connecticut. I live in Massachusetts now but that book brought me back to my early days in Connecticut. The author accurately portrayed the area and the people I remember.”

A reader from Amesbury read *The Boston Girl* by Anita Diamant: “I liked how it gave a window into the life of someone from a different time and religion than myself but was also relatable in many ways.”

A reader from Lowell read *Lila* by Robert M. Pirsig: “When not overwhelmed by the heavy philosophical nature, I found this book to be insightful and thought-provoking. The way the plot was intertwined within complex themes of morality and quality made it an enjoyable way to be introduced to concepts not normally found in everyday novels.”

A reader from Westminster read *Chair City of the World* by Constance Riley: “This book should be a must reading for anyone brought up in the greater Gardner area. Kudos to Constance Riley!”

A reader from Middleboro read *Wicked Appetite* by Janet Evanovich: “Confused me at times but I thought it was a good silly little book.”



A reader from Harwich read *The Finest Hours* by Michael Tougias & Casey Sherman: "I live on Cape Cod. I can't imagine what those men went through. I've seen big waves, but nothing compared to them. Their heroic efforts should never be forgotten."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Hour of the Witch* by Chris Bohjalian: "This book focused on the life of a young woman in the Puritanical male dominated City of Boston. I was interested in the way women had to struggle against the tyranny of their religion and the misconceptions of the day."

A reader from Southborough read *Kaikeyi* by Vaishnavi Patel: "I thought this book was amazing. I loved how powerful the author made the main character, Kaikeyi."

A reader from Scituate read *Our Missing Hearts* by Celeste Ng: "Powerful speculative fiction that feels all too real after the country slowly allows itself to be controlled by an authoritative state and ideology that pits citizens against each other, told through the perspective a young boy looking for answers."

A reader from Bourne read *The* by Sue Monk Kidd: "I got this book as a recommendation as the characters visit my husband's hometown of Duxbury, MA. So it doesn't fully fit the requirements, but I was so invested in reading it I didn't change books. It was a beautifully written story."

A reader from Fitchburg read *Golden Girl* by Elin Hilderbrand: "I hope I get three nudges when I die. This was my first Elin Hilderbrand book and I will definitely pick up another this summer for some light, fun reading."

A reader from Essex read *Robert B. Parkers Paradise* by Mike Lupica: "It's always fun to read one of Parker's (Lupica's) Jesse Stone novels. Jesse, Suit and Molly are each deep characters in their own way."

A reader from Whitinsville read *The Hotel Nantucket* by Elin Hilderbrand: "I loved this light beach read. I enjoyed the way the story was told and liked the addition of a ghost as one of the voices."

A reader from Melrose read *A Head Full of Ghosts* by Paul Tremblay: "A spectacular book filled with scary sights! Any horror fan should read this!"

A reader from East Dennis read *That Old Cape Magic* by Richard Russo: "Great character development. Fun and funny read."

A reader from Randolph read *The romance readers guide to life* by Sharon Pywell: "This story started slow, but as the characters and the story line developed I became curious and the reading came easy. The family was from the city I was born and raised in and their daily lives and personalities so closely resembled my family, that for a brief moment I wondered if the author knew us!"

A reader from Sutton read *Riding The Lightning* by Anthony Almojera: "Sobering and realistic account of being a paramedic in New York City during the peak of COVID."

A reader from Greenfield read *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett: "Wonderful, I loved it. This family story appeals to my intellect and my heart. Its has just enough humor and sentiment to be satisfying rather than heartbreaking."

A reader from Framingham read *Family of Liars* by E. Lockhart: "I liked this easy read because I have been very busy with college but I still got the chance to read and enjoy myself."

A reader from Cotuit read *Women of Martha's Vineyard* by Thomas Dresser: "I'm amazed that these talented women found solace in the remoteness of Martha's Vineyard. It's certainly beautiful there but so far from everything."

A reader from Conway read *The Red Garden* by Alice Hoffman: "Fabulous story set in a small Western Massachusetts town from 1750- present time."

A reader from Kingston read *Ethan Frome* by Edith Wharton: "I read this book years ago in high school and remembered the broad brush story but not the details. It's an incredibly sad tale of a man who deserved so much more but was bound by a sense of duty to be a caretaker his entire life."

A reader from Beverly read *The Little French Bridal Shop* by Jennifer Dupee: "I wanted to like this book ostensibly set in my town (where the \*real\* French Bridal Shop used to be), but I found the main character unsympathetic, whiny and annoying. The setting is lovely and the character ultimately stops lying to everyone she loves, but it was a lot of work to get through the book."

A reader from Chatham read *The Outermost House* by Henry Beston: "Always a favorite, every time I read it I come away with new insights and refreshed appreciation for the outer beach."

A reader from Lowell read *Dario and the Whale* by Cheryl Lawton Malone: "Such a cute book that takes place in Cape Cod! I read this book to my 1st-grade students and many of them were about to connect to Dario because they too move to MA from another country."

A reader from Wilmington read *Elementary, she Read* by Vicki Delany: "Very cute cozy mystery. Well written without giving away the culprit too early. Good descriptions of Cape Cod."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Young Goodman Brown* by Nathaniel Hawthorne: "Reading it was very confusing at first because I didn't understand or know the context in which the story took place. When I googled the deeper meaning behind the story it made more sense, but the language used was still very different than what I'm used to. Overall, I'd say it was interesting and strange."

A reader from Wilmington read *My United States: Massachusetts* by Cody Crane: "I like the facts that it gave you. I also liked the side facts."

A reader from Salem read *How To Hang A Witch* by Adriana Mather: "I wasn't expecting much from this book, it was thankfully not as cheesie as I had feared it would be."

A reader from Sandwich read *Mashpee Nine* by Paula Peters: "I thought it was well written and I learned some important history about the area."

A reader from Niantic read *Pallenberg Wonder Bears-From the Beginning* by Peggy Adler & Dibirna Jean Burnham: "This was a history of Emil Pallenberg who was an animal trainer of bears in the early 1900's and the first to teach them how to ride a bike, skate, etc. He, and his family, toured greatly with many circuses, Barnum & Bailey, Ringling Brothers, etc. His family, and bears, lived in Clinton CT in the off season which is a few towns over from where I live. I don't really believe in training wild animals but it was a fascinating story and history of by-gone days. Parts just made me laugh, for example when one of his bears was in the Jack Benny movie, Buck Benny Rides Again in 1940, posing as a polar bear and they had to "powder" her as she was a brown bear. Then after shooting the film and they went home they were called back but the bear was hibernating so it was difficult to do."

A reader from Holden read *Don't Ask Me Where I'm From* by Jennifer De Leon: "As a high school teacher in an urban school district I loved the themes in this book. It illustrates that students grapple with so much more than they let on sometimes. I enjoyed it."

A reader from Salem read *Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zevin: "I loved this so much!! Such a moving story that focus on the complexities of relationships but also a fun dip into the world of gaming!"

A reader from West Simsbury read *My Ears are Bent* by Joseph Mitchell: "This non-fiction book provides such an amazing glimpse into the life of everyday New Yorkers during the 1930's. Mitchell's writing is honest, raw, and vibrantly tells of fascinating characters of his day."

A reader from Lowell read *Northwest of Boston* by Stephen O'Connor: "I generally don't love short stories, but Stephen O'Connor is an exceptional writer. It is especially fun when characters find themselves at locations you've also been!"

A reader from Centerville read *Summer Solstice; An Essay* by Nina MaLaughlin: "This book is a gentle reminder that summer will come and time marches on and we will be okay."

A reader from South Easton read *Summertime Guests* by Wendy Francis: "Contemporary fiction that infuses explorations of various relationships with a hint of mystery. Readers who enjoy multiple points of view and twists and turns should consider this one for their beach bags this summer."

A reader from North Reading read *Tuesday Mooney Talks To Ghosts* by Kate Racculia: "I absolutely loved this book until it got to the end, where I felt a couple plot threads were dropped and the conclusion felt rushed."

A reader from Beverly read *Leaving Las Vegas* by John O'Brien: "Dang, that was depressing."

A reader from Hopkinton read *The Last Days of Dogtown* by Anita Diamant: "I love the Cape Ann area of Massachusetts. The story about a group of people living in early American times will stay with me for some time."

A reader from Princeton read *The Hotel Nantucket* by Elin Hilderbrand: "Nice easy beach read! Interesting characters and great story."

A reader from Beverly read *Sam* by Allegra Goodman: "Pleasantly surprised it took place in my home town. Liked picturing the 'landmarks' I knew while reading. Good coming of age novel ..."

A reader from Reading read *All Souls: A Family Story from Southie* by Michael Patrick MacDonald: "I felt deeply connected to the people and community he described in this heartbreaking memoir of Southie, the neighborhood my family comes from."

A reader from Norwell read *The Revolutionary: Samuel Adams* by Stacy Schiff: "Fascinating look at Samuel Adams and the lead up to the Revolution. There aren't any books set in Norwell so a book about Revolutionary history which is so fundamental in Massachusetts seemed like ideal; Schiff's history has great analysis and brings to life an overlooked but vitally important person to the fight for independence."

A reader from Hampden read *You're A Mean One, Matthew Prince* by Timothy Janovsky: "It kept my interest and kept me up at night reading!"

A reader from Turners Falls read *More Than Friends* by Many women; Patti Smith, Editor: "This was a very interesting read for me, as I was a teen in Turners Falls when the commune descended upon our town. I frequented many of their establishments, and was cautioned about the group by my somewhat wary parents. I felt this to be an enlightening read on the treatment of their members, especially the women."

A reader from Leominster read *Silver Girl* by Elin Hilderbrand: "Typical Hilderbrand, shallow self centered characters trying to figure out their lives. Easy to read, doesn't take much effort."

A reader from Saugus read *The House of the Seven Gables* by Nathaniel Hawthorne: "A group of friends and I decided to conquer this classic since it is set in Massachusetts! The language and writing was beautiful, even if the plot was slow moving at times. We plan to visit the actual House of the Seven Gables in Salem, MA all together."

A reader from danvers read *Nantucket Threads* by Pamela M. Kelley: "it is easy and quick to read."

A reader from danvers read *Nantucket News* by Pamela M. Kelley: "This is the last of 9 books that I have read by this author. They were fun and quaint. I am glad though to move on to another author. They started to get repetitious."

A reader from Danvers read *The House of the Seven Gables* by Nathaniel Hawthorne: "The writing is beautiful. The story doesn't completely age well. All in all, I'm happy I read it!"

A reader from Belchertown read *Mysteries of Belchertown's History: Investigating Stories from Our Town's Past* by Cliff McCarthy: "Belchertown, now a town experiencing massive growth, was once a small village in the Commonwealth. Nevertheless it was peopled with various character and known 'characters.' This was an interesting tour de force from the beginning to the present and as a newcomer to the town, I learned the how/why of street names as well as the development of this town."

A reader from Beverly read *The Orchard* by Adele Crockett Robertson: "I wish I could have known this incredible woman that wrote this book, and so glad that her daughter was able to take her manuscript to the publisher so that we get a chance to feel her farming struggle from the 30's. I also loved getting a feeling of Ipswich in the 30s."

A reader from Boxford read *Reflections : Staatsburg : "Not Just a Place to Live" A Collection of Interviews with Community Members* by Judith Linville: "I originally wasn't sure if I should pick where I live now or where I grew up, but I'm so glad I chose my original hometown. It's so fascinating to read stories of what the town was like in the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s because it was very different from what I experienced growing up. It's been sitting on my table for about 2 years and I don't know when I would have read it if not for this challenge."

A reader from Belchertown read *Eight Perfect Murders* by Peter Swanson: "This was a great mystery set primarily in Massachusetts. It's written very well and the author has many unexpected twists and turns in the story."

A reader from Danvers read *The Bangalore Detective Club* by Harini Nagendra: "I loved reading this book about my hometown, Bangalore (India). Set in the 1920s, it delved into the lives of Indian living under British rule. I loved the strong woman protagonist. It was a wonderful story of women empowering women."

A reader from Stoneham read *RUN* by Ann Patchett: "It was not exactly what I expected based upon the blurb inside the front cover. It was much better than that. I am a fan of Patchett, but I have to be in the mood. I am glad I read this one and would give it an B+."

A reader from SUnderland read *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* by Elizabeth George: "This is an old favorite from childhood which I was happy to revisit. I love the setting, the attention to detail and (presumably) historical accuracy, and the changes Kit goes through. What a great book!"

A reader from East Boston read *All That Is Wicked: A Gilded-Age Story of Murder and the Race to Decode the Criminal Mind* by Kate Winkler-Dawson: "Gloomy subject matter of course, but I thought it was fascinating. It's nice to read true crime that the family of the victims actually approves of."

A reader from Bolton read *Shadows in our Bones* by Tamara Merrill: "Set against the backdrop of the horrible history of Malaga Island off the coast of Maine. The present-day fictional story was engaging, but the historical backdrop is riveting."

A reader from Burlington read *Daughters of Nantucket* by Julie Gerstenblatt: "This book interested me right away, knowing it was based on a real historic fire and dropping me into the fictionalized version of 1846 Nantucket as it did (I quite enjoyed the prologue as well). I enjoyed the characters, and the issues they were facing, even if I didn't always like or really care about them. It was a little heavy on the romance for me, but overall an enjoyable read. (This was an advanced reader copy from the publisher)."

A reader from Northampton read *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles: "I enjoyed the book, but the setting didn't feel like home to me. It is set in New Hampshire, but at a fictional boarding school based heavily on Phillips Exeter Academy, which I personally do not count as a 'real' New Hampshire experience."

A reader from Wilmington read *Mystic River* by Dennis Lehane: "Wonderful view of how someone's life can be affected with different events compared to friends who grew up at same place and time but without a traumatizing event."

A reader from Gill read *A Murderous Tangle* by Sally Goldenbaum: "Entertaining. A good mystery book."

A reader from Attleboro read *The Boston Girl* by Anita Diamant: "A wonderful story about a woman going against the grain and finding herself in the early 20th century."

A reader from Lowell read *Sleds on Boston Common* by Louise Borden: "I thought it was fun and it gave me a new point of view."

A reader from WOBURN read *The House in the Pines* by Ana Reyes: "This book was really well written. Great descriptive writing and a few areas that left me feeling as disoriented as the main character, which I think added to the experience. I did feel like the ending fell flat, like she wasn't sure how to leave it, so it just ended."

A reader from So. Hamilton read *A Death in Door County* by Annelise Ryan: "As someone who has spent part of every summer in Door County since 1973, I enjoyed this light mystery set in familiar towns and settings. The protagonist is smart and capable, and historical tidbits ring true. I'm looking forward to the next installment in this new series."

A reader from Berkley read *The Bone Garden* by Tess Gerritsen: "I liked the Massachusetts setting and found the book interesting and entertaining."

A reader from Greenfield read *Floating Dragon* by Peter Straub: "The book is good, if disturbing. I was excited to see mentions of places I knew in Connecticut, including my hometown of Bridgeport, but some of the imagery in the story is pretty graphic and potentially upsetting. I'm not sure if I enjoyed it but the ending was satisfying."

A reader from Danville read *A separate Peace* by John Knowles: "I'm still in tears over it. Phineas was a fantastic character full of confidence and vitality and Knowles does a wonderful job describing the feelings and emotions coming of age during the war."

A reader from Beverly read *A Place Called Home* by David Ambroz: "This is a book that will stay with me for a long time."

A reader from Washington read *Tethered* by Amy MacKinnon: "It was dark, but interesting! And it was cool to read something set in my hometown even though it was grim."

A reader from Belchertown read *The Hotel Nantucket* by Elin Hiderbrand: "It was nice to read a story with familiar sites and locations woven into the writing. I enjoyed the reminders of summers on Nantucket."

A reader from Yarmouth read *We'll Always Have Nantucket* by Doreen Burliss: "The book was entertaining - who doesn't want to be on Nantucket? Needed some simple editing and there seemed to be an awful lot jammed into one novel."

A reader from Somerville read *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott: "A classic for a reason!"

A reader from Wilmington read *The Boston Girl* by Anita Diamant: "Interesting way to hear about coming of age in the turn of the 20th century in Boston from an immigrant perspective."

A reader from Belchertown read *How Fargo of You* by Marc de Celle: "The author moves to North Dakota and writes about the experiences he has with the over the top friendly people of Fargo and the surrounding areas."

A reader from Medford read *Cape Cod Yesteryears; The Life and Short Stories of Eleanor Conant Yeager* by Ellis, Robert Conant: "Lovely document on the lives of the Conant family, describing their every day life. I personally know the author. A very nice tribute to his heritage."

A reader from Westford read *Cabal of the Westford knight* by David S. Brody: "The book felt a little predictable at times but I still enjoyed it. It was weird to read a book set in my own town."

A reader from East Bridgewater read *You're a Mean One, Matthew Prince* by Timothy Janovsky: "You're a Mean One, Matthew Prince was such a fun, lighthearted, feel-good novel set in a small town in Massachusetts. The novel took place during winter time which made it even more magical feeling."

A reader from Revere read *Shutter Island* by Dennis Lehane: "It was an interesting experience reading this book. I would say that because I have heard of it for a long time, I kind of expected the ending. I also didn't know this book was set in Massachusetts."

A reader from Salem read *Awakening Artemis* by Vanessa Chakour: "I was originally going to report on Metropolis by BA Shapiro, which I picked up by chance and is based in Boston, Cambridge and Revere where my family is from...but then I stumbled on *Awakening Artemis* which tells journey of author who grew up in Amherst (where I went to university) and it really spoke to where I am in my life right now. It is a well crafted story of healing, reflection, reclaiming, rewilding and rerooting - about reconnecting to the land, plants, trees, and ultimately, your soul. A delightful surprise."

A reader from Melrose read *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood: "I love this book, a frightening possibility of our future but a fascinating read especially being able to picture the setting."

A reader from Hamilton read *Client privilege* by Tappley: "Great book that takes place on the Northshore."

A reader from Lowell read *Dirtbag, Massachusetts* by Isaac Fitzgerald: "Very interesting memoir."

A reader from Wilmington read *Dark Tide* by Stephen Puleo: "This is a fascinating account of the great molasses flood of Boston's North End in 1919. The book explains why molasses was important (it wasn't for cooking!) and describes how this Boston neighborhood was evolving in the early 20th century."

A reader from MERRIMACK read *The Andreasson Affair* by Raymond Fowler: "I grew up in South Ashburnham and walked by this house on the way to and from school in the late 80s. I knew parts of the story but never read the book. I'm so glad I finally read it, but I'm still not sure if I truly believe it happened."

A reader from Stow read *Back Bay* by William Martin: "I love a good historical fiction novel and mysteries so this was a fun read, if a bit tedious and convoluted in a few places. Always fun to read about places you know (even if they are quite changed.)"

A reader from Beverly read *The Liars' Club* by Mary Karr: "I never realized how few books take place in Texas in earnest outside of westerns. This memoir was fascinating for the unique experience it displays while also feeling somewhat comforting in how oddly relevant it felt."

A reader from West Barnstable read *Ethan Frome* by Edith Wharton: "Ethan Frome had been on my "to read" list for ages so I am glad to have finally read it and was not disappointed with the depiction of small town characters and the concluding plot twist. I really appreciated the sensory descriptions of winter, so evocative of the winters of my youth."

A reader from Belchertown read *Writers & Lovers* by Lily King: "Such a delightfully light read. I loved it. I wish it didn't end."

A reader from middleboro read *images of america middleborough* by michael j. maddigan and the middleborough historical association: "This book is great. The history of middleborough in pictures and words. in 1914 the fire chief started a company in middleborough to build fire engines and fire equipment. also in the late 1890's middleborough had long distant electric trolley's. I bought this book to show everyone."

A reader from Beverly read *Vigil Harbor* by Julia Glass: “This book is set in a futuristic Gloucester, MA and what could happen due to global warming. There was some fantasy involved.”

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom: “Beautiful book filled with meaningful quotes.”

A reader from Fall River read *The Girl in White* by Lindsay Currie: “While this book is fiction, it is believed to take place in Massachusetts, or at least New England. It was a spooky, nostalgic story, with all the best New England vibes! I enjoyed it and would love to read more by this author!”

A reader from Belchertown read *Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zevin: “I wanted to like this more than I did. The shifts in the story / with the characters happened quickly and were told to us, not shown, which gave me whiplash and made me feel disconnected from them.”

A reader from Hampden read *Underground Airlines* by Ben Winters: “An intriguing combination alternative history/thriller which raises questions such as: What would have happened if there had not been a Civil War? What would have happened if slavery were allowed to continue? How would an updated version of the Underground Railroad operate? Who would be the new Harriet Tubman? Why was Indianapolis one of the safe houses on this new underground escape route?”

A reader from Kingston read *Don't Ask Me Where I'm From* by Jennifer De Leon: “This was a last minute choice to meet February's goal and a quick, interesting read highlighting the fictional but realistic struggles of several Metco students.”

A reader from Weymouth read *Mystic river* by Dennis Lehane: “Good mystery, took a little while to get interesting but from there it was a page turner.”

A reader from East Falmouth read *If I Survive You* by Jonathan Escoffery: “The connected stories in this collection paint a picture of an experience of growing up in Florida that is wholly outside of my experience. A compelling window into another person's life.”

A reader from Beverly read *Fish Flake Hill* by Beverly Carlman: “Interesting historical fiction about Privateers who established in Beverly prior to revolutionary war.”

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Spag: An American Business Legend* by Elsa B. Tivnan and Catherine I. Nickerson: “Anthony 'Spag' Borgatti's sister relates his story, from his childhood on Shrewsbury Street to his success as retailer, speaker, philanthropist, family man, and friend. I was fascinated to see how the guiding principle 'Customers are people; employees are people; suppliers are people; and we all need each other' led to the growth of a legendary multi-million dollar business.”

A reader from Cambridge read *Last Night at the Lobster* by Stewart O'Nan: “A short book borrowed from a good friend and bearing a personalized dedication from the author on the title page. The book takes the reader through closing day at a Red Lobster at a New Britain shopping mall (West Farms?) from the perspective of the manager and employees. CT is my home state. I was reminded of a time back in high school when I'd drive to meet my then-girlfriend halfway at a Ruby Tuesday in Waterbury. I hope we left good tips!”



A reader from North Andover read *Conversion* by Katherine Howe: "I enjoyed the juxtaposition between history-that I don't know a lot about-and present. I appreciated the reference to a case in the news and being a therapist it was a very interesting topic!"

A reader from Great Barrington read *The Woman in the Library* by Sulari Gentill: "A unique approach to a 'whodunit' with a book within a book. It kept me on my toes, and loved that it was set in Boston... well, one and a half of the stories did... Absolutely recommend!"

A reader from Springfield read *These Witches Don't Burn* by Isabel Sterling: "This a truly enjoyable story of a queer witch trying to navigate relationships and figure out how to keep everyone she care about alive. Truly another amazing queer YA story."

A reader from Lowell read *Visions of Gerard* by Jack Kerouac: "It is a meditation on the death of Kerouac's brother, Gerard. Kerouac combines memory and imagined scenes to tell the story. It also has many glimpses into what it was like living in Lowell at that time."

A reader from Melrose read *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri: "Interesting accounts of a family - starting anew in a new country, leaving family behind, the children growing up with as a first generation Americans, and the son living with a very unique name. Not as much integration of their life in Massachusetts necessarily, but definitely lots of references to northeast locations that most new folks from Massachusetts know."

A reader from Andover read *Because I could not stop for death* by Amanda Flower: "I haven't finished it yet!"

A reader from Reading read *Spells for Lost Things* by Jenna Evans Welch: "I loved reading about how the two main characters came together! It's also been a while since I read a multiple pov book so that was nice as well."

A reader from Beverly read *Robert B Parker's Bye Bye Baby* by Ace Atkins: "Spenser and Hawk, joined by Sixkill, protect a Boston political figure as the campaign covers familiar Boston locations. The plot brings in other police and federal agents, friends and enemies, from Spenser's life, including Susan and the new Pearl. It was interesting to see how so many of the characters from previous stories were brought into this plot."

A reader from Worcester read *Hell Bent* by Leigh Bardugo: "While I currently live in Mass, I'm originally from Connecticut, and Leigh Bardugo's newest novel happens to take place at Yale. I absolutely adore Bardugo's writing; she went to Yale herself, and you can absolutely tell. Her characters are engaging, her plot is rich, her world is thoroughly and intricately built. Amazing book!!"

A reader from Holyoke read *A Good Kind of Trouble* by Lisa Moore Ramee: "Doing research for my district's equity team, I came across this gem. Funny, sweet, and timely, this middle grade novel allows all readers to put themselves in Shayla's shoes."

A reader from Beverly read *The Boston Girl* by Anita Diamant: "I love the character development. I found myself cheering and disappointed in some characters decisions."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Hidden Figures* by Margo Lee Shetterly: "A little hard to follow - Lots of names to remember! But a really cool look at the lives of women in the leading edge of science and engineering. Set in my home state of VA!"

A reader from Melrose read *The Hero of This Book* by Elizabeth McCracken: "I felt that this book worked well for this month's challenge. The main character/narrator needs to sell her childhood home in a suburb of Boston when her mother, the hero of this book passes away. Lots of ties to BU."

A reader from Quincy read *Dearest Friend: A Life of Abigail Adams* by Lynne Withey: "Growing up in Quincy, we had many field trips to the Adams homes, libraries, etc. I'm realizing we only learned about Abigail Adams in the most positive light, as a hero. Through this book, I now know that she was absolutely miserable and spent her entire life complaining about everything. She hated living in Weymouth, then Boston, then France, then England, then Philadelphia, then New York, then Braintree. The entire book revolves around her misery and worry about being separated from John Adams, but then when they were together, she still wasn't happy. She spent her life despairing that their public service made them "poor", underappreciated, and apart from each other and their children. The best parts of the book were about the individual historic events, from the pre-Revolutionary war period to after the Adams presidency."

A reader from Rockport read *The Twelve Lives of Samuel Hawlet* by Hannah Tinti: "I love Hannah Tinti's work, this a follow up for me from *The Good Thief*. This story was slower to develop but at a certain point I realized how attached to the father and the daughter and I knew I'd eventually know the mystery surrounding of the death of the mother."

A reader from Pittsfield read *The Pleasure of My Company* by Steve Martin: "I chose this book because I was born in Santa Monica, California. This was unfortunately a tough book to get through, and I probably would have stopped reading it if it weren't for the challenge (which is one of the reasons I like this challenge!). The first half was incredibly slow, it felt like a random collection of observations. Half way through a story line emerged, and the last quarter was better, but then it ended a bit abruptly."

A reader from Plymouth read *Clementine* by Sara Pennypacker: "I missed reading *Clementine* when it came out, so I was delighted to discover this early chapter book. *Clementine* is a very relatable character with lots of enthusiasm and creative ideas. It's a bonus that Sara Pennypacker is a local author!"

A reader from West Whately read *My Friend Bill – The Life of a Restless Yankee* by Paul Schratte: "Bill (William) Streeter was a self-described autodidact. His life, many of interest, portions of his career, and his family all radiate from the small New England hilltown of Cummington, Massachusetts. Occasionally Streeter would leave Cummington, but he always return – either physically or through his writing."

A reader from Grand Rapids read *Stealing Buddha's Dinner* by Bich Minh Nguyen: "Home is such a personal thing, and living far from home myself, I have come to view my hometown as singularly mine. It was startling to view a place I know so intimately through the eyes of another, especially one who had such a different perspective on it, as a (self described) "outsider". It gave me fresh eyes to see my hometown. The writing was descriptive and lyrical, but I wish the arrangement had been a bit more chronological. Overall, a delightful read."

A reader from Wakefield read *The Boys from Biloxi* by John Grisham: "Originally from Biloxi, it was great to read a novel where my hometown was the setting. Overall, the story of two boys with a childhood

friendship who separate into opposite paths was very good. I do think that John Grisham uses the word 'and' a little too much."

A reader from Stoneham read *The Body in the Cast* by Katherine Hall Page: "Couldn't find a book set in Stoneham so I picked this one set in a fictional Middlesex town, though rather posher than Stoneham. When they left town, they went to familiar places."

A reader from Beverly read *Suddenly* by Barbara Delinsky: "This book addressed some difficult topics (suicide, parenting). I felt connected to some of the characters. Some events in the book felt that they could have had more build up and put more into context."

A reader from Haverhill read *Grace Under Fire* by Julie Garwood: "Another Buchanan family book, mostly based in Boston and the fictional Nathan's Bay. I enjoy the family dynamic, but missed some of the danger and rapport of the male and female lead in her earlier Buchanan books."

A reader from Hudson read *A Fatal Vineyard Season* by Philip R. Craig: "I was born in Brookline MA but spent quite a lot of time on Martha's Vineyard when I was younger. I love this series of books about a retired Boston police officer for its entertaining stories and tons of local color."

A reader from Hopedale read *Johnny Tremaine* by Esther Forbes: "I've loved this book since I read it in 5th grade. Love the setting of Boston and the depiction of life at the beginning of the Revolution. Interesting and engaging, and makes me want to walk the Freedom Trail again."

A reader from Hanover read *Master Thieves* by Stephen Kurkjian: "Several years ago I attended an author talk at the John Curtis Library in Hanover. The speaker was Stephen Kurkjian and he discussed his book "Master Thieves". He had been a reporter for the Boston Globe and had become intrigued with this subject. The theft of thirteen works of art thirty three years ago remains unsolved. The empty frames remain hanging in the museum. The case is still an open one for the FBI and a ten million dollar reward is offered. It is a very sad story and I only hope a collector is enjoying them and they will be found at some time. This was a tragedy for the City of Boston."

A reader from SOUTH BOSTON read *All Souls* by Michael Patrick MacDonald: "This book was interesting but in all honesty too intense and emotional for me to finish. It was fascinating to learn about the old Southie and how tough it must've been to grow up here."

A reader from Hamilton read *We Ride Upon Sticks* by Quan Barry: "Fun and funny. As a former field hockey player for HWRHS this was right up my alley. Fun to see all mentions of local landmarks."

A reader from Waltham read *The Country of Ice Cream Star* by Sandra Newman: "The language is amazing and the book overall is incredibly ambitious. It is a difficult read as much of it is about the ways people find to harm and exploit each other. Some similarities to Riddley Walker with the post-apocalyptic setting, the narration in a new version of English, and the ultimate sense of despair."

A reader from Beverly read *The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath: "I enjoyed reading and hearing the authentic voice of a young woman struggling with all that stage of life entails. I found it very relatable and heartbreaking that she wasn't able to get to the other side of her struggles with mental illness."

A reader from Forestdale read *Little women* by Louisa May Alcott: "I like how the story follows the sisters throughout their lives. They can follow different paths and in the end are able to put aside differences and be a family."

A reader from Lunenburg read *A Reckoning* by May Sarton: "I felt so privileged to accompany Laura in such an intimate way on her journey to the end of her earthly life. It was so real and so inspiring. I could only hope to emulate Laura with a similar prognosis. One of my 'best' books."

A reader from Plymouth read *Reasonable Doubt* by Peter Manso: "It was a well-researched and fascinating take on the 2002 killing of fashion writer Christa Worthington on Cape Cod. Manso argues that race played a role in the ultimate conviction of a man Manso believes is actually innocent."

A reader from Attleboro read *Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout: "It was well-written; pithy, and with believable and recognizable characters. The beginning is very hopeful, the middle depressingly unhelpful; but the ending brings the hope back in without marginalizing life's tragedies/harshness. A good read, a great main character."

A reader from Andover read *Tuesdays With Morrie* by Mitch Albom: "This book is charming with some good little morals. For me, it didn't feel like anything groundbreaking, but I get the sense that this book was the first for its time. In that sense, I really respect what Mitch Albom is doing with this book, and how he creates one of the first quaint self-help/memoir stories of its genre."

A reader from Plymouth read *It Happened One Summer* by Tessa Bailey: "I absolutely adored this book! A light and cute love story that reads like a romcom. It's set in Westport, Washington where some of my family actually live and work on the crab boats. It made me miss them and the Washington coast."

A reader from Millbury read *The Survivor's Club* by Lisa Gardner: "Loved the plot of this page turning thriller! Twisty and liked the ending!"

A reader from Wilmington read *Civil Disobedience and Other Essays* by Henry David Thoreau: "Interesting to read the authors thoughts and how they still relate to today's world."

A reader from Quincy read *The State Boys Rebellion* by Michael D'Antonio: "I appreciated having the opportunity to read the stories of Fred Boyce, Joey Almeida, and other boys stuck in a place they didn't belong. I rooted for the real-life protagonists throughout the book, and would definitely recommend it to others."

A reader from Belchertown read *At the Edge of the Haight* by Katherine Seligman: "This book was a novel about homelessness in San Francisco. It was very insightful and kept my interest. The majority of the book took place about a mile from where I grew up. It captured a certain piece of culture in San Francisco that is often overlooked but can't be ignored."

A reader from Fitchburg read *The Lager Queen of Minnesota* by J. Ryan Stradal: "Interesting read that packed the mentioned of a lot of Minnesota towns into the story--including one I grew up in and my grandmothers."

A reader from Attleboro read *Waiting For Normal* by Leslie Connor: "I really enjoyed reading a book from my hometown. It's always interesting to know exactly where the story is taking place."

A reader from Boston read *Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zevin: "A beautiful story about friendship between Sam and Sadie. I Sometimes the book was very sad. I think someone who is a "gamer" would love this book!"

A reader from Beverly read *The Line Tender* by Kate Allen: "I thought the book was good . I really liked Lucy and thought that the way she had an interest in sharks was cool."

A reader from Westford read *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne: "Love, cruelty, judgement and a strong woman who rises above it all."

A reader from Braintree read *The Demeter Code* by Russell Brooks: "I insisted on reading a book set in my hometown of Springfield, MA. It turns out there are just a few scenes that take place in Springfield, and they don't paint the city in a very positive light. The book, a bioterrorism thriller, is not the kind I'd normally choose to read. In the end, I felt quite neutral about it."

A reader from Lowell read *We Ride Upon Sticks* by Quan Barry: "This book is foreboding, from the very first page. There were times I almost wanted to stop reading but couldn't, just in case Emilio took offense."

A reader from Salem read *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles: "I chose this book as it is set at a boarding school in New Hampshire, which is where I grew up and lived until my late twenties. The book is about an outsider, someone who attended a very prestigious academy though they were from a different place and class. This book is also a book about friends and revisiting the past. One of the most interesting parts of the book is the contrast between Gene and Finny. It is a story of friendship and maturing, also how your perspective is subjective. The way you see things changes as you grow up."

A reader from Beverly read *The North Shore of Massachusetts Bay: An Illustrated Guide and History* by Benjamin D. Hill & Winfield S. Nevins: "This reprint of an 1881 travel guide to the North Shore of Boston was a fascinating look at my home town and its surrounding towns through the lens of a much different century. Perfect for anyone from this area to see how much has (and, just as often, has not) changed or just for anyone who wants to have a nice chuckle over the authors' complaints about telephone-free areas and gossip about the most stately homes of their day."

A reader from Rowe read *Forgotten Mowings: Recollections of a Lawn Boy in a Small Town in Western Massachusetts, Population 350* by George Bernhardt: "To be frank, boring. I'm glad for the author's sake that he got a chance to record his youthful memories, and I want to honor the previous generation on the land I live, but there wasn't much story- barely any plot or deeper meaning- just listing off the locations of trees and houses and various handy-man tasks that, while I know they're important work, are just not in my area of interest."

A reader from Danvers read *Ethan Frome* by Edith Wharton: "Very sad. For such a short read, a lot to think about concerning life decisions and the relationships we pick after I finished."

A reader from Wilbraham read *Looking For Rachel Wallace* by Robert B Parker: "My parents were big fans of the Spenser series and having lived in Boston it is always fun to catch Parkers shootouts to local landmarks, and it is even more fun to see how things have changed since the 70s and early 80s."

A reader from Sandwich read *The Marriage Plot* by Jeffrey Eugenides: "This book was an entertaining love triangle, albeit a slow one. I enjoyed the deep-dive character analysis and the fact that much of the book was set on the Cape -- I rarely read books set in or around my hometown."

A reader from wilmington read *The Ghost* by Diane Steel: "Set in the 1990s & 1700's in Selburne Falls Massachusetts. As always with Danielle Steel, a story of interesting characters in her own easy-to-read style."

A reader from BEVERLY read *The Given Day* by Dennis LeHane: "The book grabbed my attention from the beginning. I love the historical aspects of the book as well as the story it told."

A reader from Hopkinton read *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott: "I really liked this book. I found it a really sweet book that shows working through conflicts and always sticking together as a family throughout this book."

A reader from Merrimac read *Chances Are ...* by Richard Russo: "This novel takes place primarily in beautiful Martha's Vineyard and revolves around the lives of 4 friends who meet in college and form a deep connection. Now, forty-five years later, three of the friends have a reunion on the island. Memories of the past haunt them all but none more than the mystery of their 4th Musketeer!"

A reader from Hanover read *Hotel Nantucket* by Elin Hilderbrand: "First Elin Hilderbrand's book for me. She is definitely a queen of beach read. She describes Nantucket so well. Gotta make a trip there again soon."

A reader from Northampton read *The Virgin Suicides* by Jeffrey Eugenides: "How unique that the narrators are nameless neighborhood boys who observe (worship?) the Lisbon sisters from afar and unfurl the mysterious story of their deaths by suicide over the course of year. The writing is stunning. Set in Grosse Pointe, Michigan, where the author (and I) grew up -- which makes a huge difference in setting the tone, ethos, and nuances of this Detroit suburb."

A reader from South Portland read *Carrie* by Stephen King: "First Stephen King book that I've read and I loved it. Really easy read because the story was familiar. Also reading Milltown by Kerri Arsenault which is great as well!"

A reader from Wakefield read *That Summer* by Jennifer Weiner: "I was attached to the characters and seeing what would come of them. I love reading books that take place somewhere I know, so this month's challenge was a pleasure."

A reader from Lowell read *The Art Forger* by B.A.Shapiro: "This book is a great illustration of what can happen when we rationalize the means justifying the end."

A reader from Lowell read *Northwest of Boston Stories* by Stephen O'Connor: "Set in and around my home city of Lowell, this collection of short stories consistently captured my imagination. I was visiting familiar spots at each page. A non-Lowellian could get a real feel for our city reading any of his books. Stephen's description of Lowell landmarks, the surrounding landscape, and his cast of characters often captures the viewpoint of an older male protagonist coming to grips with change -- whether that be cultural norms, the city, or relationships."

A reader from Brooklyn read *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* by John Berendt: "I loved living through this book based on my ideals and experience of Savannah, from a different perspective and time period. So captivating!"

A reader from Salem read *The Weight of Water* by Anita Shriver: "Slow burn but worth it."

A reader from Brewster read *Cape Cod* by Henry David Thoreau: "I really enjoyed the descriptive narrative of Cape Cod by Thoreau from the 1800's."

A reader from Hanson read *Trapped Under the Sea* by Neil Swidey: "Interesting read about the story of human risk."

A reader from Centerville read *Cape Coddities* by Dennis & Marion Chatham: "Written in 1920, and funnily, not a lot has changed about visiting the Cape."

A reader from Somerville read *We Ride Upon Sticks* by Quran Barry: "I didn't know Danvers used to be a part of Salem!!!!!"

A reader from West Hartford read *Roses, in the Mouth of a Lion* by Bushra Rehman: "I am a proud New Yorker, although I have lived in Connecticut longer at this point in my life. I grew up in Ossining, NY part of Westchester County, outside the city limits, but I spent a great deal of time in NYC as a young person. I am also an 80's girl and proudly came of age to the greatness of this decade. Razia's life as a young Pakistani Muslim from Corona, Queens was both drastically different from my own and yet strangely similar. Through this amazing novel I revisited my youth and learned so much about a culture that was somewhat foreign to me. A beautiful book!"

A reader from Monson read *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult: "Although I currently reside in Monson MA, I grew up in Connecticut and decided to read a book set there. 'Small Great Things' has been on my list of books to read for a long time, and I am so happy to have finally crossed it off! The book showcases Ruth Jefferson, a well-respected African American L&D nurse, and her experiences facing racism and discrimination. She found herself at odds with a White Supremacist after his son dies in her care, and Ruth ended up going to trial for negligence/murder. This turned her life completely upside down, and she was forced to face discrimination and racism head on throughout the process. Going through this made her recognize the discrimination she had faced all throughout her life, and how unfairly Black people are treated, despite their success. It was a fabulous book to read, and very hard to put down! I was able to get a glimpse at the harsh realities people face simply because their race/appearance. Overall, Jodi Picoult's book really makes the reader confront or think about their own racial biases, or at least acknowledge that there is still racial discrimination occurring in society."

A reader from Belchertown read *Writers & Lovers* by Lily King: "For once a book about writing and art that addresses the importance of balance and healthcare alongside the artistic life, *Writers & Lovers* made me want to write again."

A reader from Bolton read *The Stillwater Girls* by Minka Kent: "Great fictional story that took place in upstate NY (my home state). Loved all the twists and turns. Easy read that I finished in one night because I couldn't put it down."

A reader from SALEM read *The House of the Seven Gables* by Nathaniel Hawthorne: "I'd never read it and I felt like I should as a resident of Salem. There's a lot of beauty in the language, but mostly it just felt too long."

A reader from Northampton read *The Mothers* by Brit Bennett: "Though this book takes place in my hometown of San Diego, it was startling and refreshing to immerse myself in a completely different perspective. I was riveted by Bennett's musings on the communities that have parented us and the decisions we make that shape our lives forever, and was absolutely swept up in her story of the fate of a grief-stricken, troubled young woman of color who becomes pregnant at age seventeen."

A reader from Hadley read *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm* by Kate Douglas Wiggin: "Have always been curious about it, since I have a 1903 copy that belonged to my great-aunt. Set in Maine, my home state. Enjoyed it."

A reader from Craryville read *A Family Place: A Hudson Valley Farm, Three Centuries, Five Wars, One Family* by Leila Philip: "A fascinating, deep look into the long history of the house on our favorite local orchard, as well as sobering insight into the difficulties of farming. I had no idea what is involved in integrated pest management until I read this book!"

A reader from Paxton read *The Big House: A Century in the Life of an American Summer Home* by George Howe Colt: "This book was so relatable to me as someone whose family has had a place on the Cape for many decades. I can relate to the allure of the Cape and the power of a place to play such an important role in a family."

A reader from Dracut read *Mystic River* by Dennis Lehane: "A powerful spellbinding tale. I couldn't put the book down. It was captivating and heartfelt! Go grab yourself a copy and get reading!!"

A reader from Lowell read *Northwest of Boston Stories* by Stephen O'Connor: "Great collection of stories set in Lowell, MA. Love the variety of characters presented."

A reader from Amherst read *The Game is a Footnote* by Vicki Delany: "This was the latest installment in a Sherlock Holmes bookshop mystery series set on Cape Cod. It was different from other mysteries in that it began with a historical house that was seemingly haunted, rather than someone being murdered."

A reader from Salem read *One True Loves* by Taylor Jenkins Reid: "It was good!"

A reader from Melrose read *The Cousins* by Karen M. McManus: "It was full of amazing twists and turns and made me slam the book closed more than once. It was a pretty quick read and a pick me up from some slower books I'm reading."

A reader from North Bethesda read *Ignite* by Melanie Harlow: "Age gap is not for me and this 34 year old hot single dad and his 22 year old neighbor was too gross. Maybe if he had been a 500 year old vampire it would have been fine."

A reader from Uxbridge read *You're a Mean One, Matthew Prince* by Timothy Janovsky: "It was a cute holiday romance read. I enjoyed the relatability of Matthew's anxiety."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller: "'The Crucible' was an informative and fascinating interpretation of one of the most painful chapters of Massachusetts's history."



A reader from Chester read *The Hotel New Hampshire* by John Irving: "It was a bit of a farce but the writing was good."

A reader from Sutton read *Good Harbor* by Anita Diamant: "As someone whose family has been impacted by breast cancer, it was really interesting to read about someone else's journey although it was fictional. It's also crazy how these two women found each other when they both needed it the most and were just in the right place at the right time."

A reader from Providence read *My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult: "The intricate interconnectedness of the characters' lives made them jump off the page. I found the ending disconcerting as Anna died after finally winning the court battle to receive the independence that had never been afforded to her."

A reader from LeClaire read *The Overnight Guest* by Heather Gudenkauf: "This book made me afraid of the family barn. It was so real I could picture it happening on my grandmother's neighbors farm."

A reader from Melrose read *Moonlight Mile* by Dennis Lehane: "I liked the book's references to areas of Massachusetts. It reminded me of The Berkshires where I went to school. It was suspenseful. I did not expect Amanda to plan her escape from the kidnapers. The author showed her street smarts as well as her academic intelligence."

A reader from Longmeadow read *Before the Flood* by Elisabeth C. Rosenberg: "Growing up in Western MA, I was always aware of the Quabbin Reservoir but not the story of how it came to be. This book covers all aspects of the Quabbin story, most importantly the story of the 4 towns sacrificed to create the reservoir. First-rate storytelling presenting an important part of MA history - highly recommended!"

A reader from Marlborough read *Commencement* by J. Courtney Sullivan: "A wonderful nostalgic read!"

A reader from Salem read *Companions of the Night* by Vivian vande Velde: "I'm originally from Brockport, NY, and according to Goodreads, this is the only book set in Brockport - though there are quite a few that are partially set in the Greater Rochester area. It's fun to imagine this kind of story taking place in the town where you grew up, the streets you've walked, and the places you've been many times, such as a human trying to murder a vampire in the local 24-hour laundry mat or dumping a body in the swamp."

A reader from Georgetown read *Magnus Chase and The Gods of Asgard* by Rick Riordan: "The book was good, and included a lot of interesting twists and turns with likable characters. I enjoyed learning about Norse mythology, and seeing a different side of it. I had already looked into the topic, but the book was interesting nonetheless. The book also had a character from the Percy Jackson/Heroes of Olympus Series, which I thoroughly enjoyed."

A reader from Georgetown read *Miracle on 49th street* by Mike Lupica: "I thought it was a good book with good details."

A reader from Reading read *Beloved* by Toni Morrison: "So glad I waited until my later years to read this masterpiece. Its depth, heart, intensity, and richness would have been wasted on my youthful brain. What a treasure!"

A reader from Georgetown read *Nancy Kerrigan* by Paula Edelson: "Nancy was born February 7, 1968 in Stoneham. Nancy was the youngest out of three. Nancy was a competitive figure skater and competed in the 1992 winter olympics in France."

A reader from Georgetown read *The prince of Fenway park* by Julianna Baggott: "It was a good book, I enjoyed it."

A reader from Georgetown read *The prince of fenway Park* by Julianna Baggot: "I thought that it was very entertaining."

A reader from Georgetown read *Robert F. Kennedy* by M. Schlesinger, Jr.: "It explained Robert F. Kennedis life."

A reader from Georgetown read *Randy moss first in flight* by Mark stewart: "Randy moss played for my favorite NFL team and i love randy moss. So i really enjoyed this book."

A reader from Beverly read *The Little French Bridal Shop* by Jennifer Dupee: "Set in "Kent's Crossing", aka Beverly Farms, which was really cool. I loved the small-town vibe and the seaside/nature descriptions. The lead character, unfortunately, was unbearable."

A reader from Northampton read *In the Unlikely Event* by Judy Blume: "It was a good coming of age story set around bizarre, yet true, events of three planes crashing in NJ. Enjoyed the pacing and different time settings."

A reader from East Sandwich read *I must betray you* by Ruta Sepetys: "I was so excited to have this book for my February challenge be set in my hometown of Bucharest, Romania just three years before I was born, and it even takes place in the next neighborhood over from where I grew up. I found myself loving the characters, being sucked in to what was happening to the characters and I was amazed by the accuracy of it, from the suffering to the jokes and absurdity of the times (such as using Kent cigarettes as currency - 100% true)."

A reader from Somerville read *On the Street Where You Live* by Mary Higgins Clark: "Not the best written but an interesting story and loved the references to my town and places I have been!"

A reader from Beverly read *The Sweet Life* by Suzanne Woods Fisher: "A breezy escape to Cape Cod during our coldest month."

A reader from Northfield read *The Reincarnation of Peter Proud* by Max Ehrlich: "Interesting book. living in massachusetts there are several books to choose from, mostly set in boston. i was trying to find something closer to home. while this book is set in a fictional town called riverside, its basically springfield. starting in california peter begins to have hallucinations about a previous life. he can no longer stand it and flies to mass to find this town, while driving around he finally sees things that he has been seeing in his hallucinations. in his previous life he is murdered by his wife because he was abusive. after seeing each hallucination, he stops having them so he realizes he has to recreate each one. unfortunately he also has to create the murder one and is murdered by the person who was his wife in his previous life."

A reader from Florence read *Caleb's Crossing* by Geraldine Brooks: "Having spent my summers on the Cape/Marthas Vineyard, it is easy to be brought back to this time period and envision it as the characters did in the 1600s."

A reader from Attleboro read *Daughters of Nantucket* by Julie Gerstenblatt: "A great, forthcoming historical fiction about a lesser known time and place - I think this will be a very popular title this spring/summer."

A reader from Wakefield read *The Paper Palace* by Miranda Cowley Heller: "What I most enjoyed was the description of the setting (Cape Cod, where I spent many summers as a kid). The storyline itself was pretty raw in spots (definitely needed a content warning, I think), but kept my interest throughout."

A reader from Falmouth read *Ring around the punch bowl* by George Moses: "This book was full of information and history of my home town. The vivid writing recounts the story of how Falmouth MA became a tourist destination, and how many tracts of land once owned by early summer visitors were donated to the town for public open space."

A reader from Lakeville read *A long stay in a distant land* by Chieh chieng: "Real and raw felt family dynamics so straightforward. It felt like I was getting a cultural education. Very neat to read about areas and how they depicted it as if I was just standing right there staring at it."

A reader from Weymouth read *Bowlaway* by Elizabeth McCracken: "I loved the candlepin bowling alley setting of this novel, as someone who grew up with candlepin. McCracken's characters were quirky and endearing, but the second half of the book really unraveled for me and seemed to lose the central thread tying it all together, which was disappointing."

A reader from South Deerfield read *Nothing Lasts Forever* by Roderick Thorp: "This is the book that the movie "Die Hard" was based on. I was surprised how close to the book the movie is! I do think the action made for a better movie than book. The writing was ok—kind of a hard-boiled detective fiction sort, but lots of action sequences that were better on film than on the page. Like the movie, the book takes place in Los Angeles along Wilshire Boulevard. I'd already read a lot of other books set in LA (my hometown). So this was a fun choice."

A reader from Topsfield read *Walden* by Henry David Thoreau: "Inspirational and highly quotable. A bit dry in parts (especially when he talks about the price of beans), but definitely worth a read."

A reader from Lowell read *Cameo Diner* by Matt Miller: "Long before I moved to Lowell, I randomly grabbed this book from a used book sale - I was going through a poetry phase. I re-read it recently because I've made Lowell my home now for nearly a decade. ( I'm originally from Derry NH but haven't lived there in over 20 years.) I'm not much of a poetry reader, but I really enjoyed this collection because it felt so familiar - we've eaten at the diner, we drive and walk by the canals, we spend time downtown and in the mills. It's comforting and enjoyable to read about your home. Despite not being a poetry lover, I'll keep this book in my collection and pick it up every now and then."

A reader from Holbrook read *Little Hours* by Lil Copan: "This is a wonderful epistolary novel of letters between a middle aged woman and a Sister living with five other nuns in monastery. I loved this little book which is set in Weymouth, MA along the back river-River st! Highly recommend this book!"

A reader from Plymouth read *The Physick Book of Deliverance Dane* by Katherine Howe: "I Love Salem so this author never disappoints when it comes to historical fiction."

A reader from Marriottsville, read *Chesapeake* by James Michener: "Fabulous! Couldn't put it down. Learned so much about the history of the founding and development of my adopted state of Maryland."

A reader from Scituate read *Scituate Chronicles* by Ted Clarke: "Fascinating history of Scituate from 1628 through 2014. Famous residents, shipbuilding, mousing, coastline scenery and dangers. Changes and reasons for the changes detailed. Learned a lot!!"

A reader from South Yarmouth read *The Big House* by George Howe Colt: "I was drawn to it by the big rambling nature of the house, the interesting chimney and that it was a glimpse into a world of wealth and summertime. It was interesting to hear about the changes in a family and the cope over a 100 year period."

A reader from Northfield read *On Beauty* by Zadie Smith: "If we could all see ourselves in fiction the way Smith portrays these characters -- well-intentioned but myopic -- then there would be a good chance for us to treat each other like the thoughtful people we want to be. Although the story here can be a little too tidy, it makes for a good satire about our self-righteous attitudes on race and class."

A reader from Bourne read *Cape Cod* by William Martin: "This is an oldie but goodie. I mainly loved the historical aspect of this book vs. the modern story but it was fun to re-read this book again."

A reader from Sutton read *Writers & Lovers* by Lily King: "It was fun to read a book set in Massachusetts- I enjoyed relating to the landmarks."

A reader from Northborough read *Monschau* by Steffen Kopetzky: "I really enjoyed the book because it took me back to my home town area. The story is about a doctor who was in charge to fight the pest epidemic which was even more interesting whith out newest pandemic experience."

A reader from Ludlow read *In the Unlikely Event* by Judy Blume: "Amazing. I grew up not far from Elizabeth, and in the late 60s my husband was in the Navy, stationed in Boston and when his ship was in flew home to NJ weekends. In/out of Newark airport. Picked him up/dropped him off. Later, lived 2 years in Roselle, even skated at Warinaco Park! A real trip down memory lane."

A reader from East Sandwich read *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult: "This book takes place in New Haven, CT, my hometown. It is about a highly accomplished African American nurse who is wrongly accused of murdering a newborn in the OB hospital unit where she worked. The accuser is a white nationalist, Neo-Nazi. While it was a poignant story, I felt the characters were stereotypical. This book prompts us to examine the extreme hatred that infiltrates the minds of those in the Neo-Nazi movement. It also treats the pain and anguish of people of color living in a world where they are expected to fulfill the plans and dreams of a white-dominated community."

A reader from NORTHAMPTON read *A Cheerleader's Guide to Spiritual Enlightenment* by MB Caschetta: "Fascinating essays, not just well written but gripping, whether about dealing with long-term Covid after a large group of (unmasked) kids jog past her or about advocating for women's health in the early years of the AIDS crisis, or about tensions between and amongst couples on a ski trip."

A reader from Salem read *How To Hang A Witch* by Adriana Mather: “Although there was a bit of a slow start to the action and heart of this book, including lots of typical/cliche YA over the top drama and Salem-centric witchy stereotypes, I really did enjoy the second half of this story! There was an interesting plot and natural development of characters, and the romantic and youthful aspects of this novel combined with the darker themes of death, illness, and a curse, made for a captivating read. And of course, it being set in Salem, it was fun to read about character situations set right in my own backyard (literally- I live right by the Walgreens hanging site where most of this story takes place!)”

A reader from Hopedale read *Images of America-Hopedale* by Elaine and Daniel Malloy and Alan Ryan: “Three local residents put together a book with images of Hopedale, MA. This town was founded by Reverend Ballou and begun as a utopian experiment with all contributing to a common good. This lasted until it was taken over by the Draper family and became an industrial town. Very interesting pictures compiled by the authors.”

A reader from Reading read *Monstrous Beauty* by Elizabeth Fama: “Fama writes a dark take on the mermaid myth, set in Plymouth, MA. Many references to well-known Plymouth landmarks such as Burial Hill and Plimoth Plantation.”

A reader from Milford read *Walden* by Henry David Thoreau: “to live intentionally, in the way we each care to do so, in the home of Nature. one to drop into and appreciate.”

A reader from Franklin read *Vigil Harbor* by Julia Glass: “I’m about 75% done with the book, so this summary is based on my reading so far. Vigil Harbor is a dystopian novel set in the 2030’s in a fictionalized version of my hometown (Marblehead MA). The writing is fairly decent: descriptive and has an interesting premise (the earth suffering under global warming consequences). However, I find it difficult to keep track of the various characters and their overall point in the novel. I give it (so far) a B-.”

A reader from Wilmington read *Burden Murders* by Sara Miller: “This book was absolutely thrilling and I loved learning more about what happened in my home state, even how gruesome it was.”

A reader from Salem read *Sitting Pretty* by Rebekah Taussig: “An extremely charming set of essays about disability, daily life, and activism from a Kansas City writer. Taussig is so empathetic, funny, and clearly an expert in her field!”

A reader from Seekonk read *This Land is Their Land* by David J Silverman: “This book is a heavy, thoughtful reminder of whose land we are on--and the lasting impact of colonization on our state. It turns the traditional Thanksgiving tale on its ear, revealing the deeper layers under our perfunctory elementary education about the relationship between the Wampanoag and the Pilgrims.”

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom: “I liked the advice Morrie gave Mitch about many aspects of life. Morrie’s outlook on his impending death made living life to the fullest the only acceptable way to live.”

A reader from Rochester read *Emily’s House* by Amy Belding Brown: “Interesting to read how they lived and how being a maid was more than an eight hour day.”

A reader from Melrose read *Run* by Ann Patchett: “Patchett develops her characters very well in this book of a former Boston mayor and his three sons. Two of the sons were adopted and of a different race

than the father, so the novel covered some of the challenges of raising children who were of a different race than the parent. She also dealt with the feelings of the older son in response to his brothers.”

A reader from Lowell read *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri: “I appreciate how the book was inter generational.”

A reader from Montague read *Rough Sleepers* by Tracy Kidder: “Beautifully written account of Healthcare for the Homeless in Boston. Informative and touching.”

A reader from Wilmington read *We Ride Upon Sticks* by Quan Barry: “I chose this book on a whim and I’m glad I did. It was fun to see references to familiar locations and I thoroughly enjoyed the story from start to finish.”

A reader from East Sandwich read *Florida* by Lauren Groff: “Lauren Groff's FLORIDA is beautiful collection of poignant short stories told from various perspectives against the backdrop of Florida. The first one in particular felt very familiar to my own hometown in Florida, with its simple and simultaneously complex depiction of suburban life. This was a great bedside reading book.”

A reader from Swansea read *A week at the shore* by Barbara Delinsky: “I thought the book was good. It was a little slow at the beginning tho. I wish it had more at the end, even an epilogue or something. Since I know there area well,I wanted to know where they ended up.”

A reader from Lynnfield read *All on Fire: William Lloyd Garrison and the Abolition of Slavery* by Henry Mayer: “A detailed dive into the life of one of America's foremost and fervent anti-slavery voices in the 19th century. Fascinating to read about Garrison growing up in 19th-century Newburyport (my childhood home) and the development of his principles and impact on the abolitionist movement.”

A reader from Hopkinton read *Caleb's Crossing* by Geraldine Brooks: “Set in 17th century Martha's Vineyard and then Cambridge this is a coming of age the story of of a bright teenage girl as she discovers her loss of freedom in a male dominated world. She befriends a Native American boy of the same age, and they learn each other's language and cultures. This comes to an abrupt hall when tragedy strikes.”

A reader from Centerville read *How To Find Your Way In The Dark* by Derek B. Miller: “Wow. I read this without knowledge of the author or plot and I’m so glad I did. I fell in love with the characters and also appreciate the history of a very different Connecticut than where I grew up. I look forward to reading more by this author!”

A reader from Weymouth read *The Romance Recipe* by Ruby Barrett: “This is a sweet romance with not too much at stake. The descriptions of food will make your mouth water!”

A reader from Southborough read *It's not summer without you* by Jenny Han: “I thought it was really cute. I mean I definitely cried at the beginning of the book but the romance aspect near the end was both cute and super anxiety inducing.”

A reader from Whitinsville read *The Boston Girl* by Anita Diamant: “A wonderful read about a group of women trying to find their place in the world. I loved the details of history and the way the story easily brought you there. I know the North End as a delicious section of the city. It was interesting to hear some of its not so glamorous past.”

A reader from Indian Orchard read *Land of Love and Drowning* by Tiphonie Yanique: "I grew up on St. Croix and know very little about Virgin Islands history. This is an intriguing fictionalized story of one family from Transfer Day, when the VI was transferred from Denmark, in 1941, to the US through the 1960s. An EXCELLENT read."

A reader from SOUTH DEERFIELD read *Practical Magic* by Alice Hoffman: "This was a very fun read and quite different from the movie! It's one of the rare examples of a book made movie where each is wonderful as a stand alone experience."

A reader from Sharon read *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt: "Rich in detail of character, setting. Difficult to put down as this is such an unusual, intriguing, story unraveling about loss, friendships, love, art."

A reader from Braintree read *In five years* by Rebecca Serle: "I thought the plot of the book was great, it was about a women who takes a nap and sees herself in the future for one hour and then wakes up. It started great but the ending did fall flat for me. Overall I think the story was alright. I would check out other books from this author."

A reader from Melrose read *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri: "A really nice multi-generational portrait of the immigrant experience, taking place largely in the Boston area (with a namecheck of my hometown Bedford!)"

A reader from Reading read *Bowlaway* by Elizabeth McCracken: "This book was definitely an interesting read. The style of writing was different than what I am accustomed to. I did enjoy the New England references to candlepin bowling."

A reader from Taunton read *A History of Taunton* by William F Hannah: "This book gave me much insight into the founding and development through the years of the city which I grew up in. The content was very well researched and presented here."

A reader from Westwood read *Images of America, Winthrop* by George DeSaulniers and Donald Simonini and members of the Winthrop Historical Commission: "It was an interesting history of the town that I grew up in and lived in from 1951-1969. My family just sold the home in 2022 after 80 years! Lots of history that I never knew!"

A reader from Hampden read *It Starts with Us* by Colleen Hoover: "I really enjoyed this book. It was a follow up to the book *It Ends with us*. I thought this book tied up all the loose ends from the first book."

A reader from Arlington read *All Souls* by Michael Patrick MacDonald: "It was profound, heartbreaking, and beautifully written."

A reader from Cohasset read *The Hotel Nantucket* by Elin Hilderbrand: "Fast-paced and engaging, loved getting to know the characters."

A reader from Southborough read *Three and Out: Rich Rodriguez and the Michigan Wolverines in the Crucible of College Football* by John U. Bacon: "Insightful! This book did a great job of letting you inside the coach's experience running a top-tier college football team, and the pressure involved."

A reader from Swansea read *A Study in Charlotte* by Brittany Cavallaro: "I liked the mystery of this book, along with the ties to the original Sherlock & Watson duo. It was interesting to imagine where in my state this book was based on."

A reader from Bourne read *Lethal Tides* by Catherine Mosemeche: "An interesting read of the oceanography history during WW2. A new topic to explore."

A reader from Beverly Hills read *Black Caesar's Clan: A Florida Mystery* by Albert Payson Terhune: "Interesting post World War I adventure which takes place north of Miami, and in which no one is who they appear to be. Lots of description of the terrain and people before enormous amount of development in the area today."

A reader from Swampscott read *Moll Pitcher: The Fortune Teller of Lynn* by J.S. Jones: "A short play about a drama involving the local fortune teller. Not much historical information but published in 1855 so a maybe it offers murky glimpse into some past."

A reader from Salem read *Hester* by Laurie Lico Albanese: "This book was displayed by the Salem Public Library as a suggested read for the February challenge. I am so glad I picked it up. The story was a delight to read, the author made main character's gifts come alive across the pages."

A reader from Reading read *Townie: A memoir* by Andre Dubus III: "Really well written, but felt a little longer than it needed to be. I found it a somewhat relatable memoir as a boy growing up in Massachusetts in a divorced household, but it was also drastically different than my own experience."

A reader from Salem read *Wicked Appetite* by Janet Evanovich: "A fun light read."

A reader from East Falmouth read *Painting Lily* by Mimi Schlichter: "Liliana evolves from a relationship that's not good for her to self awareness and growth. It was nice to read references to places I know in Falmouth, but I would not recommend. Good attempt, though."

A reader from Salem read *Murder on Cape Cod* by Maddie Day: "As a Cape Cod lover, I enjoyed listening to this book. I also learned what my favorite genre is called- cozy mysteries. I'll be listening to and downloading more of those!"

A reader from Barnstable read *The Way to the Salt Marsh - A John Hay Reader* by John Hay: "I loved reading about Cape Cod in the 60's. John Hay speaks to the natural world before the Cape became the vacation destination it is today."

A reader from Cambridge read *A Work in Progress* by Jarrett Lerner: "I decided it was ok to include a book written by a Massachusetts author. It was a heartbreaking but ultimately hopeful novel in verse about self image."

A reader from Braintree read *The body in the attic* by Katherine hall page: "I love Katherine hall page books, they are mostly set in Massachusetts and they have great supporting characters."

A reader from Kingston read *Martha's Vineyard Isle of Dreams* by Susan Branch: "A beautiful recounting of the resilience of a woman grieving from a broken heart in California, forging her way to the East coast of Massachusetts and falling in love with rugged, breathtaking Martha's Vineyard. Through her talented art, Susan built a life filled with the joys of her surroundings, her birds, rabbits, gardens; settling in to island life and perhaps finding love. Enjoy!!"

A reader from Reston read *To Kill a Mocking Girl* by Harper Kincaid: "Enjoyed my personal autograph copy of this mystery by this new mystery author. Kept me guessing until last chapter. Definitely recommend. A new series A Bookbinding Mystery. can't wait to read next book."



A reader from Centerville read *The Red Coat* by Dolly Carson: "Story occurs in the Boston Area where I grew up which made it very pertinent for me. The prejudice between cultures during the 40's and 50's between the working class Irish and the Beacon Hill Brahmins was shown by the lives of two families. I loved this book. I even knew the streets that were mentioned and the politics of the day."

A reader from Weymouth read *American Tempest* by Harlow Giles Unger: "I was slow getting started, struggled through some battles, and then got really enthralled with all the unknown (to me) historical facts surrounding the Tea Party, and the people, etc. I'm very glad I finally read it, as I've had it ever since I purchased it at one of Mr. Unger's book-signing (and had it signed by him that evening)."

A reader from Franklin read *Song of Solomon* by Toni Morrison: "In some ways, the experiences of the black folks in this book and of my lower-class white family from Detroit are very similar. Poverty doesn't discriminate. However, white folk do."

A reader from Salem read *The Lace Reader* by Brunonia Barry: "I did not enjoy this book at all. I found the characters to be full of drama with no idea of how stupid they were."

A reader from Springfield read *History of Chicopee* by Thaddeus M. Szetela: "Published in 1948, this book presents an excellent history of the City of Chicopee, Massachusetts from its beginnings as an Indian settlement which became the village of Cabotville until becoming a city in 1848. Many interesting historical drawings and photographs accompany the text."

A reader from Beverly read *Run* by Ann Patchett: "It took me awhile to really get into this book but I especially enjoyed the second half and loved the ending. A beautiful story about family."

A reader from Norwell read *The Combat Zone* by Jan Brogan: "This was a riveting true story about the rise and fall of Boston's Combat Zone, but also about the entangled roles that racial injustice and school busing of the 1970's played in a local murder trial."

A reader from New Bedford read *Ahab's Wife* by Sena Jeter Naslund: "Very entertaining, well written book. I felt I was with the character every step of the way."

A reader from Hopkinton read *In the unlikely event* by Judy blume: "Wonderful book. Never knew of the tragedy of Elizabeth NJ resulting in the closing of Newark airport."

A reader from WEST ROXBURY read *Run* by Ann patchett: "An interesting domestic drama set in Boston. Compelling. Always interested in stories about protecting our children."

A reader from Belchertown read *Don't ask me where I'm from* by DeLeon: "I enjoyed the main character and felt the novel was uplifting and inspiring. I recommended it to my teen niece."

A reader from Salem read *Hour of the Witch* by Chris Bohjalian: "The entire story kept me guessing. This book was also special because I could relate to a character living in the 1600s."

A reader from Essex read *The Silence in the Sound* by Dianne C Braley: "She captures the heartbreak and frustration of loving someone with addiction. Great setting!"

A reader from danvers read *Now or never! : 54th Massachusetts Infantry's war to end slavery* by Now or never! : 54th Massachusetts Infantry's war to end slavery: "I liked the the way the author told the life stories of two soldiers who serverd as war corresopondents."

A reader from Salem read *In Defense of Witches* by Mona Chollet: “This book was incredible for anyone who is a feminist, and persuasive enough to convince those who aren't to be one! What I thought was going to be a story of primarily the witch trials turned into a journey through the centuries that highlighted the connections between our history of misogyny and the ways they play out in our everyday lives (even if we don't notice it!). I would (and have been) recommend this book to everyone interested in social culture and change.”

A reader from Franklin read *Last Night at the Lobster* by Stewart O'Nan: “This book is a moving representation of a snowy evening in CT working in the service industry. The characters and the setting felt familiar and comforting despite the melancholy mood of the story.”

A reader from Worcester read *Team Photograph* by Lauren Haldeman: “A haunting takes place through this graphic novel that's part memoir, and full of poetry. I grew up running around the Manassas battlefields that the author played soccer on. At times she could see and hear the ghosts of the Civil War in her home and on the edge of the forests. As a child I thought the woods were haunted too, and so this became a reflection for me as well.”

A reader from Shrewsbury read *The Family Outing* by Jessi Hempel: “Amazing story of an entire family and their struggles with their sexual identity and trauma.”

A reader from Attleboro read *Strollercoaster* by Matt Ringler: “This book had energy! The colors, typography, and action of the characters kept your eye and ear engaged--and delighted. (While this book might be a stretch for this category, I did choose it because the illustrator and colorist both live in Boston.)”