



2023 Reading Challenge

JULY

A book borrowed from your local library

A reader from Attleboro read *A Trip to the Stars* by Nicholas Christopher: “This novel is gripping from the beginning. By the end, it feels a bit too perfect.”

A reader from Beverly read *Batman Nightwalker* by Marie Lu: “Really fun, but ended before he actually became Batman!”

A reader from Mashpee read *Kindred* by Octavia E Butler: “Not at all what I expected when I picked this one up. Had not at all expected the time traveling piece of it. Also really enjoyed the author highlighting “modern perception” differences between Dana as a black woman and Kevin, as the white husband of a black woman. Made me reevaluate my own perspectives and perceptions.”

A reader from Concord read *The River Murders* by James Patterson: “Typical quick Patterson read; this one got you 3 stories in one.”

A reader from Amherst read *Babel: or the necessity of violence: an arcane history of the Oxford Translator’s Revolution* by R. F. Kuang: “A scathing critique on white British colonialism through the sub-genre of dark academia, this book feels both indebted to Donna Tart’s *The Secret History* and superior to it by sheer force of academic rigor and dramatic scope.”

A reader from Chelmsford read *Fleishman is in Trouble* by Taffy Brodesser-Akner: "I found it really enjoyable, very fast paced and dynamic."

A reader from northampton read *ghosts from kingphilip's war* by edward lodi: "too many stories of haunted places but it is good to read something that makes your brain understand that life was really hard and sadness with people, Indians whatever was out somewhere making weird noises. please read it."

A reader from WORCESTER read *THE SECRET KEEPER* by KATE MORTON: "THIS WAS A VERY ENJOYABLE BOOK TO READ. THE COMBINATION OF HISTORICAL FICTION AND MYSTERY WAS A WINNING ONE."

A reader from Peabody read *Pineapple Street* by Jenny Jackson: "Simple story with an honest exposure to young love as it evolves through experiences and adventures."

A reader from Dartmouth read *Discovery of Witches* by Deborah Harkness: "Quite the epic tale. Vampires and witches and daemons, oh my!"

A reader from Fall River read *DeClassified* by Arianna Warsaw-Fan Rauch: "Not only a funny and decidedly non-snobbish guide to classical music but a great memoir as well. The author takes you on an eminently readable journey through everything you might like to know about classical music and the people who (try to) make a living at it."

A reader from Hopedale read *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray: "I did not know the story of Belle da Costa Greene and found it very interesting to read. That being said, I have read most of her other books and enjoyed them more than this one."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Death of a Knit Wit* by Peggy Ehrhart: "Fun, clean cozy mystery. Makes me want to read more of the series."

A reader from Stoneham read *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie: "A quaint novel, owing to its singular setting and brevity. Its quickly paced, dialogue-driven narrative makes it a page-turner."

A reader from Spencer read *A Bitter Feast* by Deborah Crombie: "I have loved this series for quite some time. This book was particularly good. Great characters with interesting back stories."

A reader from Andover read *State of Terror* by Hillary Clinton/Louise Penny: "This was a very interesting book with authenticity; Hillary Clinton's time as Secretary of State informed the plot and the writing was edge of seat twisty turnery. Really good!"

A reader from Fall River read *DeClassified* by Arianna Warsaw-Fan Rauch: "A great, un-stuck-up guide for anyone who'd like an introduction to classical music or who'd like to know more about it. Part guide, part amusing memoir. As a musician, I very much enjoyed the author's anecdotes about her life as a professional musician and her training at Juilliard (who knew its nickname is Jailyard??)."

A reader from Melrose read *Such Kindness* by Andre Dubus III: "This book can be difficult to read because of the suffering of some of the characters and the violence in their lives. The changes the protagonist is able to make are both hard to believe at times and inspiring. Beautiful prose."

A reader from Needham` read *Good Food, Bad Diet* by Langer, Abbey: "The subtitle sums up this book. 'The Habits you need to ditch diet culture, lose weight and fix your relationship with food forever.' I

learned some new things about food and diet culture. However, changing habits is not so easy ... most people need some help - which diet plans hold out. This book presents a lot to think about and discuss."

A reader from Peabody read *The house across the lake* by Riley Sager: "It was full of twists and turns. It included the supernatural powers of death in a lake. Not really satisfying for me. I do not like anything with the supernatural."

A reader from Peabody read *Friends like these* by Kimberly McCreight: "It was interesting."

A reader from Dracut read *The Witches of Eastwick* by John Updike: "It was kind of raunchy! I have never seen the movie, but I've heard of it."

A reader from Irvine CA read *The Body* by Bill Bryson: "Always wonderful and sometimes funny Bill Bryson."

A reader from Boylston read *The Huntress* by Kate Quinn: "Nazi hunters come to Boston in a search of Die Jaegerin, the Huntress, who fled Europe after the war. Deftly balancing several storylines at once, this was a very entertaining historical fiction book."

A reader from West Yarmouth read *Trial* by Richard North Patterson: "I thoroughly enjoyed this book that is so much in the news. The topic is very complex and there are many times that you must really think about what is occurring as it relates to real life."

A reader from SCITUATE read *The Language of Trees* by Katie Holten: "A must for tree lovers. This book is a compilation of essays encompassing poetry, memoir, even recipes. The author has created a tree alphabet and uses it to 'translate' the book's contents. Very highly recommended."

A reader from Attleboro read *Demon copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver: "I liked how the author took us in the adventure with demons life. It was so interesting to see how he handled all his very challenging situations."

A reader from Hadley read *The Villa* by Rachel Hawkins: "I picked this up to read over the 4th but then opened it early and read in one sitting. You would think that means I loved it, but I didn't. It was just easy to read. This book was okay. The general premise is intriguing - 'houses remember' - and the back and forth between murder that took place in 1974 and present day worked flow-wise, but neither story lines fully developed. Also the writer seems to be trying to make characters from 1974 kind of like those in *Daisy Jones and the Six*, but nothing, I mean nothing could copy *Daisy Jones* - the style of that book was a revelation. I'm still not convinced *The Six* wasn't a real band. But that characters in the *Villa* - nope. Not doing it."

A reader from Braintree read *Now Is Not The Time to Panic* by Kevin Wilson: "Set in Tennessee, this coming-of-age (and beyond) story grabbed me from the first page. Insightful and poignant."

A reader from Rochester read *Murder your Employer* by Rupert Holmes: "Lots of fun, well written."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *A House with Good Bones* by T. Kingfisher: "A House with Good Bones is a dark, twisted, haunting, thrilling, and propulsive slice of Southern gothic surrounding a childhood home with buried family secrets. It was a fun and bizarre ride from start to finish."

A reader from METHUEN read *FIRE STRIKE* by MIKE MADEN: "IF YOU LIKE THE OREGON FILES SERIES YOU WILL LIKE THIS ONE."

A reader from Williamsburg read *We Deserve Monuments* by Jas Hammonds: "Beautiful book about a girl who moves back to her mother's hometown and learns about her family history and herself."

A reader from Springfield read *Magic for liars* by Sarah Gailey: "Interesting and reminded me of an adultish Harry Potter."

A reader from Yarmouth Port read *The Spectacular* by Fiona Davis: "Fun read about being a Rockette at Radio City Music Hall and how difficult it is for a young woman in the 1950's who wants a career instead of being a traditional housewife."

A reader from Belchertown read *We Were Strangers Once* by Betsy Carter: "We Were Strangers Once is Based on historical research, Ms. Carter's book explains the lives of German nationals in New York City as they learn American culture while Germany sinks deeper into the morass of Hitler's campaign to rule the world. Their struggles are unique, their friendships based on the culture they left behind as they forge new friendships, struggle against growing German bias, and all learn the streets of America are not paved with gold but opportunities, small and large, that enable them to grow into becoming "American." This is an incredible weaving of several diverse characters with different goals and hopes into one amazing story that finds you rooting for them all the way. I enjoyed it immensely."

A reader from Rochester read *Flight* by Lynn Steger Strong: "A quick but riveting character-driven family drama that explores the impacts of living in today's world on our sense of self and the way we connect (or don't) with others. The author's explanation in the acknowledgments that she wrote the book, "in part, to convince myself that collectivity had value; that all the broken shit aside, it still meant something, to seek out and foster a community" resonated for me. The perfect book for this month's challenge, which encourages us all to utilize one of our strongest community institutions - our local public libraries!"

A reader from Forestdale read *Speechless* by Lindsey Lanza: "I loved this book and could not put it down!"

A reader from Worcester read *Babel an Arcane History* by R. F. Kuang: "June - book from the library. Babel - Incredible - magic as metaphor for colonialism, industrial revolution, student revolt. Brilliant writing. Children from around the world wind up in Oxford U studying translation to be used for magic."

A reader from Middleboro read *Happy Place* by Emily Henry: "I thought this book was great to read in the summer, and it was super easy to read! I really enjoyed it!"

A reader from Billerica read *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby VanPelt: "A great read."

A reader from Monson read *The Matchmaker's Gift* by Lynda Cohen Loigman: "The novel is set in 1910 the Lower East Side of New York City where a talented female matchmaker Sara is a threat to the male dominated tradition. Two generations later her grand daughter realizes she has the same gift of matchmaking. I loved being transported to the early days of the 20th century and the Jewish culture of NYC where women were expected to be subservient to men. Hooray for those who dared to move forward."

A reader from West Whately read *The Stolen Heir* by Holly Black: "The world of Elfhome continues with Wren (Queen Suren) and Prince Oak. Mysteries are exposed, friendships grow - and are broken - plus there is some massive revenge! Black spins another fabulous tale. Borrowed from the S.White Dickinson Library in Whately."

A reader from Malden read *The Banned Bookshop of Maggie Banks* by Shauna Robinson: "Cute book about a woman who has serious constraints on what she can sell and how she gets around that rule. I would like to have gone to one of her special events!"

A reader from Beverly read *Rehearsed to Death* by Frank Anthony Polito: "I was introduced to this author through a book discussion sponsored by a local library. The book centers around two domestic partners who eventually solve the murder of the play's director that absolutely no one likes. You meet many interesting characters along the way including Clyde and Jackson, the dogs."

A reader from Boston read *Disorientation* by Elaine Hsieh Chou: "A really thoughtful look at some of the heavier issues facing our campuses, courts, and lives right now: racism, cultural appropriation, cries of censorship and cancelation. I found Ingrid's journey really compelling."

A reader from Andover read *You Could Make This Place Beautiful* by Maggie Smith: "I enjoy memoirs written by poets. This one is a beautifully written meditation on grief, divorce, patriarchy, single motherhood, vocation, and the writing life."

A reader from Amherst read *Third girl from the left* by Christine Barker: "An inside look at the world of Broadway as well as life in NYC in the 1980's as the AIDS epidemic is starting to affect many in those communities. The author's experience of persevering to succeed on the stage and her up close and personal experiences with her brother's relationships and subsequent AIDS diagnosis is a very compelling story."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Before You Knew my Name* by Jacqueline Bublitz: "A compelling, extremely unusual story of two women whose lives become entwined (one dead, one alive) when the older woman, a jogger who happens upon the dead body of the younger woman, can't put the horrific experience behind her!! She needs to find out just who Jane Doe is, and especially what happened to her!! Difficult to put down !"

A reader from Burlington read *I'm in Love with Mothman* by Paige Lavoie: "This was a lovely cottagecore cryptid love story about an influencer who is tired of the hustle and moves to a cabin in the woods, where she falls in love with Mothman."

A reader from Sunderland read *Anything Considered* by Peter Mayle: "I picked up this book from the library after having read Peter Mayle's "A Year in Provence" for my June selection. This was a fun adventure story with twists and turns in the plot, quite different from his memoir, but set in the same location."

A reader from Wakefield read *Sisters of the Lost Nation* by Nick Medina: "Of all the library books I'll read this month, this will be my favorite. Medina writes about the importance of cultural history, tradition, gender, and memory as part of a story that focuses attention on the tragic epidemic of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The author is Native American; this is his first novel. If we're lucky, he'll write many more. I couldn't put it down."

A reader from Brewster read *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus: "Great, entertaining book about Elizabeth Bott, a chemist who doesn't take no for an answer."

A reader from Stoneham read *Ana Takes Manhattan* by Lasseter Decos: "Easy summer romance read."

A reader from Marblehead read *Locking Up Our Own* by James Forman Jr.: "It was an interesting book that explored the history of crime and incarceration of blacks in America beginning essentially in the 1960's. It discussed how the changes in federal policy and attitudes in the culture have impacted the imprisonment of black citizens. Overall, I disagree with the general argument that the poor black population is targeted unfairly since the bulk of the crimes and murders (as noted in the book) are conducted within poor black neighborhoods."

A reader from Wilbraham read *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson: "This novel takes place in the 1930s in an impoverished area of Appalachia in Kentucky. The New Deal's WPA created a program of librarians to deliver books via horseback to patrons who lived in remote areas. One of these librarians was from a family that had a genetic abnormality, giving them blue coloring to their skin. The author did an outstanding job describing the living conditions and the challenges everyone, but most importantly, the "blues" faced. A very enjoyable story which touches on many issues, including racism, sexism, poverty, and the misunderstanding of science."

A reader from Springfield read *The Exceptions* by Kate Zernike: "The story of Nancy Hopkins, MIT and the fight for women in science. Fascinating history book that reads like a novel. Surprisingly, a real page turner!"

A reader from Agawam read *The Bullet That Missed* by Richard Osman: "I read the first two books in this series and thought they were just okay, and was debating whether or not to read the third. My local library had it, so I thought I'd give it a shot... I thought it was just okay."

A reader from Wakefield read *Finlay Donovan Jumps the Gun* by Elle Cosimano: "The third in a series about a mom who is accidentally hired as a hit woman, gets involved in the Russian mob and is dating a cop. Funny, difficult to believe the events but in a good way, and a quick enjoyable read. I'm looking forward to the next in the series!"

A reader from Salem read *Identity* by Nora Roberts: "It's been a long time since I've read a Nora Roberts book. She tells a good story."

A reader from Sunderland read *Rosewater* by Tade Thompson: "SF is my favorite genre, but this was an especially wild ride. I stuck with it, though. Intriguing and strange."

A reader from Basking Ridge read *The Last Flight* by Julie Clark: "Started off well and then petered out at the end."

A reader from Gill read *Because I Could Not Stop for Death* by Amanda Flower: "Very good. I highly recommend it."

A reader from Beverly read *Havana Nocturne* by T.J. English: "The book was good."

A reader from Leominster read *The Secret Book of Flora Lea* by Patti Callahan Henry: "This was a beautiful and mysterious story of two young sisters evacuated from London during World War II. One

disappeared and the other never stopped trying to find her, especially when she discovered a children's book written about their secret imaginary world. I couldn't put it down."

A reader from Hampden read *Beachcombing for a Shipwrecked God* by Joe Coomer: "Compulsive read about women of three generations dealing with everyday life by escaping on a old wooden yacht and giving themselves time to grieve, heal and support each other. This isolation allowed them to support each other and find a way to make peace with life as it can be. Life confirming read and learned a lot about a wooden boat."

A reader from Attleboro read *No Two Persons* by Erica Bauermeister: "Such a creative work of fiction. Based on the concept that when we read a book, we experience it through our own unique life perspective. Thus no two persons ever reads the same book."

A reader from North Dighton read *Winter Counts* by David Heska Wanbli Weiden: "Such a fantastic story I read it in a day! The characters are poignant and the layers of mystery build authentic suspense."

A reader from BEVERLY read *The Song of Achilles* by Madeline Miller: "An engaging, enveloping love story."

A reader from Wilbraham read *Someone Else's Shoes* by Jojo Moyes: "Great concept, easy read."

A reader from South Hadley read *Poison Study* by Maria V. Snyder: "This book was so good! It's been on my to-read list for over a decade and I finally got around to reading it over the long July 4th weekend. It was worth the wait."

A reader from Paxton read *Almost Flying* by Jake Maia Arlow: "Delightful coming-of-age queer story about a teenage girl figuring herself out while riding rollercoasters."

A reader from Belchertown read *All the Days of Summer* by Nancy Thayer: "A positive light read perfect for a hot summer days relaxing in the shade."

A reader from Wakefield read *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett: "So good! I was slightly disappointed in the ending though, I felt like there were some unanswered questions! I feel like I need a sequel."

A reader from Northampton read *City of Endless Nights* by Preston and Child: "This is the 17th in the mystery/thriller series series about iconoclast FBI Agent Pendergast and also features NYPD detective and other well developed characters. I do not recommend starting with this book but you do not need to read all in the series."

A reader from Springfield read *The Queens of New York* by E. L. Shen: "A lovely portrait of three friends on the edge of adulthood. Jia, Ariel, and Everett were such distinct characters and I loved all three. I related to Ariel the most in her grief and inability to text back in a timely manner, but also to Everett who finds herself struggling in an industry I've struggled in for years."

A reader from Medford read *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean: "This month I borrowed *The Library Book* from ILL at my local library. The book was introduced to me by the Library Land Project. The book is about the massive fire at the Los Angeles Public Library, April 29, 1986. The cause of which remains unsolved. The book talks about the fire, how far along libraries have come, where once upon a time, women could only visit one room in the library, and children were not allowed at all. The book does touch on the amazing efforts of people who deliver books in places where there are no public libraries,

one such place is Cajamarca Province, Peru. If you are a library lover as I am, it's a great read(NF) and keeps the reader engaged. It validated to me why I love the library. Not to mention that everything is free. It did also discuss the Little Free Library Movement. Pretty cool book!"

A reader from Wakefield read *Class Mom* by Laurie Gelman: "Laugh out loud funny and relatable as a kindergarten parent."

A reader from Methuen read *Evil Under The Sun* by Agatha Christie: "A very clever mystery with lots of red herrings. Agatha Christie is the queen indeed!"

A reader from Dracut read *The Whalebone Theatre* by Joanna Quinn: "I loved the characters and their relationships to one another. I haven't read much about the French Resistance, so this book was informative as well. Great read."

A reader from Springfield read *The Last Animal* by Ramona Ausubel: "Oh my goodness! I couldn't put this book down. So sweet and tender on so many levels."

A reader from Beverly read *Vermeer's Hat* by Timothy Brook: "Imaginative approach to discussing 17th century mercantile globalization: the author utilizes Dutch artworks, primarily paintings by Vermeer, to illustrate trade between Europe- mostly the Netherlands and the East. Each artwork contains objects that are used as portals to launch a history of a specific trade, country, or business practice. History and art appreciation in one text."

A reader from Hudson read *The Making of Another Major Motion Picture Masterpiece: A Novel* by Tom Hanks: "It was fun to read, and I enjoyed it even more "hearing" it in Tom Hanks's voice!"

A reader from Worcester read *I Swear* by Katie Porter: "Congresswoman Katie Porter's memoir. Smart. funny, informative about her work teaching bankruptcy law, fighting for consumer protection in Congress and her personal/professional challenges along the way. I loved this book, highly recommend it."

A reader from SALEM read *Lost Boys of Montauk* by Amanda Fairbanks: "A true story with many individual perspectives from those involved."

A reader from Tewksbury read *Terminated* by Ray Daniel: "A quick and engrossing read."

A reader from Beverly read *Atalanta* by Jennifer Saint: "In a world where women and their accomplishments are constantly erased from history or attributed to someone else (someone male), Jennifer Saint makes sure the diminished memory of the fierce huntress Atalanta, a disciple of Artemis, who was the sole woman on the voyage with Jason and the Argonauts for the Golden Fleece and part of the Calydonian boar hunt, is remembered."

A reader from Swansea read *Suprisingly Sarah* by Terri Libenson: "Terri Libenson does it again! I loved reading about Sarah's story and her friendship with Leo."

A reader from HAMPDEN read *Envy* by Sandra Brown: "Love Sandra Brown. She has a gift."

A reader from Hingham read *Sunshine* by Jarrett Krosoczka: "This graphic novel is heartfelt and the perfect read for fans of Hey, Kiddo."

A reader from Quincy read *The Unhoneymooners* by Christina Lauren: "Kind of cliched predictable fiction but enjoyable enough."

A reader from Leeds read *A Likely Story* by Leigh McMullan Abramson: "An engaging story about of family of writers struggling with what it means to be successful or a failure, facing betrayal, and fighting for those they love. I enjoyed the book and was rooting for the main character."

A reader from East Falmouth read *Loving Frank* by Nancy Horan: "Although this book is fictionalized, I was amazed to find that I was not aware of the historical elements of Frank Lloyd Wright's life that are depicted in the story. I am glad that I found it on the "From our archives- Retired Picks" display at my library."

A reader from Elbridge read *Commitment* by Mona Simpson: "This is the story of 3 siblings who have their way to make in the world without their Mother, who is in a mental health facility for depression. Their Mother's friend steps in to help as best she can. I really liked the characters and wanted to see where their lives led."

A reader from Amesbury read *28 Summers* by Elin Hilderbrand: "This book was an easy summer read but also left me with deeper thoughts about our life choices, morals, and priorities."

A reader from Northampton read *Happy Place* by Emily Henry: "Such a fun summer read that I borrowed from Forbes Library! Emily Henry is a master of witty rom-com banter. The weaving between past and present timelines was done super well."

A reader from Amherst read *The Secret Scripture* by Sebastian Barry: "A interesting story of love, betrayal and tragedy . I read the book after watching the movie which was very different."

A reader from Lunenburg read *Love Medicine* by Louise Erdrich: "Having spent time on Native American reservations myself, I believe the author expressed the multitude of Native American issues with accuracy and with empathy."

A reader from Leverett read *Poverty, by America* by Matthew Desmond: "Everyone should learn about the ideas in this book. It makes the abolition of poverty in the US seem possible. It would be extremely difficult, but it's possible."

A reader from Worcester read *Savage City* by L Penelope: "I love this author and tore through her other series - the Earthsinger Chronicles. I enjoyed this a lot as well, although the Earthsinger books remain my favorite."

A reader from Essex read *The Celebrants* by Steven Rowley: "Very likable and believable characters. The story has Big Chill vibes."

A reader from Fitchburg read *48 Peaks Hiking and Healing in the White Mountains* by Cheryl Suchors: "This might very well be my favorite book I've read so far in this reading challenge. A super inspirational true story that in some parts, even moved me to tears."

A reader from West Yarmouth read *The woman in cabin 10* by Ruth Ware: "Enjoyed this book. Love whodunits and this was a good one. Was a quick read and agree with other readers that the author writing style very similar to Agatha Christie."

A reader from Weymouth read *Ordinary courage : the Revolutionary War adventures of Joseph Plumb Martin* by Joseph Plumb Martin: "Ordinary Courage was a good reminder of the sacrifices Revolutionary War soldier paid for our freedom."

A reader from ROCHESTER read *The Prophet* by Kahlil: “This slim volume of 26 prose poems on the human condition, written in an archaic “wisdom text” style, is on the library’s 811 shelf dedicated to American poetry. A month ago I participated in an astonishing walking book tour to the cabin overlooking Buzzards Bay where Gibran wrote this book. Never out of print since first published in 1923, *The Prophet* has been translated into 100 languages. My local library’s copy was printed in 1968 on ecru linen with a dribble edge, adding a textural component for the reader. Well worth checking out to celebrate its centennial!”

A reader from Attleboro read *Look for Me There* by Luke Russert: “I worked at BC when Luke was a student there and when his father suddenly died right after graduation. I've read Tim Russert's book and now Luke's. It must be difficult to have a famous father and put such heavy expectations on yourself. I enjoyed his story of self-discovery and I understand his grief at losing his father.”

A reader from Berkley read *Night Shift* by Robin Cook: “This was a fun thriller, a nice read for summer.”

A reader from Beverly read *Us Against You* by Fredrik Backman: “This is a follow-up book to *Beartown*. *Beartown* made me cry harder than any other book in my life and this one made me angrier than anything, which was likely it's aim. It was a very strong and powerful read despite the rage on the page.”

A reader from North Reading read *The Giver (graphic novel adaptation)* by P. Craig Russell: “I love the original book by Lois Lowry. I usually do not really care for graphic novel adaptations, but this was a surprisingly good one. The original book is already very disturbing, but to see the details of the story and the things that Jonas is made aware of in art form is truly unsettling. The only thing that makes me say this is slightly not as good as the original is that the novel's ending is much more ambiguous than this one's, which I always liked. I wish P. Craig Russell would adapt the book “Son” as well that Lois Lowry wrote later that tells more of this story, which ended up defining the ambiguous ending, yet was still highly satisfying to read.”

A reader from Blackstone read *Did You Hear About Kitty Karr?* by Crystal Smith Paul: “An impressive debut novel that I enjoyed from cover to cover!”

A reader from Wilmington read *Verity* by Colleen Hoover: “Great twist at the end, but should've seen it coming because a lot of the storyline was just too far fetched. Too much sex fore, too.”

A reader from Scituate read *Everything I never told you* by Celeste Ng: “This book was highly recommended but I didn’t like it all. It was sad and the characters were so unlikeable.”

A reader from Dennis Port read *The Second Life of Mirielle West* by Amanda Skenandore: “It was quite satisfying to witness the culmination of events that lead to the main character’s ‘rebirth’ and finding herself, and I learned more about leprosy than I ever knew before.”

A reader from Beverly read *The Printed Letter Bookshop* by Katherine Reay: “I really enjoyed this book about three women and the way each one changes and grows through their friendship and their shared effort to save a failing bookstore. It's interesting to compare and contrast the twists and turns of my life to those of the three main characters. The many, many literary references were fun, too.”

A reader from East Bridgewater read *Leave the World Behind* by Rumaan Alam: “I liked the writing & the character development, but it didn't feel like a thriller, as there wasn't much plot. It'll be interesting to see how closely the Netflix adaptation is to the book.”

A reader from RANDOLPH read *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins: "This was a well-written story about a mother and her eight year old son who experience family tragedy and flee Mexico fearing for their lives as they desperately try to reach what they hope is safety in the United States. This story is not a political statement; it's a human statement, and those who would prevent immigration without knowing this story (and countless others like it) should read this story before building a wall."

A reader from Melbourne read *A Dying Fall* by Elly Griffiths: "The fifth book in the Ruth Galloway series and just as enjoyable as all the books that came before. Read them in order and the characters just become more and more comfortable, like old friends. This book was borrowed from my library and read on my Kindle using Libby."

A reader from South Hadley read *Small Mercies* by Dennis Lehane: "Set in history of Boston's bussing order but revealing and dissecting the dynamics and origins of current racism."

A reader from Lowell read *The Darlings* by Hannah McKinnon: "I enjoyed how real this family was, their secrets and downfalls. It definitely showed that family is more than blood."

A reader from Worcester read *Britt-Marie was here* by Fredrick Backman: "Touching portrayal of quirky characters."

A reader from Beverly read *Fresh Banana Leaves: Healing Indigenous Landscapes through Indigenous Science* by Jessica Hernandez: "This personal account takes you on a journey of appreciation, acknowledgement, and awareness for indigenous histories and ways of knowing told by indigenous peoples."

A reader from Belchertown read *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green: "This book demands to be felt. Not the most artfully written but it's contents are so wonderful powerful."

A reader from Attleboro read *The Do Over* by Suzanne Park: "It was a great book. I liked how it went back and forth between time. I couldn't put it down!"

A reader from Amesbury read *The Road to Roswell* by Connie Willis: "The newest from my favorite author did not disappoint! Aliens, romantic comedy, and a road trip combine to make a fun and funny read!"

A reader from Swansea read *Happy Place* by Emily Henry: "I really enjoyed this title. I loved Emily Henry's other books, and while this one is different, it does not disappoint."

A reader from New Bedford read *A Cowardly Woman No More* by Ellen Cooney: "Story was weak with a lot of unnecessary tangents. Not one I would recommend."

A reader from Reading read *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt: "Got off the holds list for the ebook version just in time for July. I really enjoyed this book about a group of real curmudgeons (including the octopus)."

A reader from Leominster read *The only one left* by Riley sager: "Atmospheric and entertaining, although unrealistic and outlandish."

A reader from HAMPDEN read *Envy* by Sandra Brown: "I loved the twists and turns the plot took!"

A reader from SUTTON read *Scat* by Carl Hiaasen: "I wanted to be sure to read my daughter's summer reading books so I read this one along side her. I enjoyed following the adventure of Nick and Marta as they tried to piece together the mystery of their disappeared teacher."

A reader from Boston read *When Breath Becomes Air* by Paul Kalanithi: "Very well written, beautiful, candid, and sad. A powerful and important read."

A reader from hampden read *Dark Roads* by Chevy Stevens: "I thought this book was OK. Quick reading. Good characters."

A reader from Bolton read *Counterfeit* by Kristin Chen: "A fun book and a quick, enjoyable vacation read!"

A reader from Ludlow read *Malibu Rising* by Taylor Jenkins Reid: "I expected/it at first it sounded like it would focus more about Malibu's history of weather vulnerability. But it's about a family evolving over time with, with lots of challenges, twists and turns--against that backdrop. Not a favorite, but different and well written once you get into it."

A reader from Salem read *Mirrored in Evergreen* by B. Pigeon: "An interesting concept that unfortunately is more a framing device for the characters to interact with one another. I've read better and I've read worse all said."

A reader from Middleboro read *Love Buzz* by Neely Tubati Alexander: "This was my book club's choice this month! It was a really cute romcom that was actually realistic, relatable, and believable!"

A reader from Hopkinton read *The Wishing Game* by Meg Shaffer: "Loved this book! Beautiful and sweet story about hope, facing your fears, and believing your wishes will come true."

A reader from Norton read *The Thirteenth Tale* by Diane Setterfield: "A gripping and haunting story relayed by a lonely bookseller, called upon by a famous -but reclusive - author to write her biography. I could not put this book down!!"

A reader from Groveland read *Yellowface* by R F Kuang: "Really great read."

A reader from Rochester read *Murder your Employer* by Rupert Holmes: "Very entertaining. Different concept."

A reader from GLOUCESTER read *The Getaway* by Lamar Giles: "Reminded me of an episode of Black Mirror. Giles wrote compelling characters that you cheered for to get out of the horrid situation they were dropped in."

A reader from Attleboro read *Jurassic Park* by Michael Crichton: "I found it interesting to have more of the science explained in the novel compared to the movie. The novel also had the capability to make the dinosaurs more loveable and more fearful at the same time."

A reader from Braintree read *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus: "This was a fantastic read - its a story told from the 60s but focused on women in science and what the true experience felt like for women during that period."

A reader from Sagamore Beach read *Hershey's Chocolate Creator* by Joanne Mattern: "Nice short, simple timeline biography of Milton Hersey."

A reader from SPRINGFIELD read *Lessons Learned & Cherished* by Deborah Roberts: "Teachers & Librarians never receive enough gratitude, so this book was a wonderful way of highlighting the many ways they positively influence & affect children & their life paths. It was nice to read & learn about different famous people's experiences, showing how valued they should be. I also like that you could skip around and have a quick read of anyone listed in the table of contents."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *The Priory of the Orange Tree* by Samantha Shannon: "Loved the world building of this book."

A reader from Northfield read *Where are the Children Now?* by Mary Higgins Clark & Alafair Burke: "It was hard to believe that this book is a follow-up to the original from 40 years ago! Melissa & Mike are now adults and their mother, Nancy, is 72. Melissa's stepdaughter is kidnapped and old memories creep in for everyone. The police look into Melissa as a suspect due to her traumatic childhood."

A reader from Hopedale read *The Girls* by Emma Cline: "Definitely tried to envision the late 1960s and the thoughts of those in their teens and late 20s growing up in the age of hippies and cults. Very interesting read!"

A reader from Tewksbury read *Brief Answers to the Big Questions* by Stephen Hawking: "How wonderful to have had this amazing mind for far longer than the doctors predicted and yet, how sad that we no longer have him."

A reader from Randolph read *Sea Change* by Robert B Parker: "An interesting and quick read. A new character for me by this author. I like his style."

A reader from AMHERST read *Twelve Patients -- Life and Death at Bellevue Hospital* by Eric Manheimer, MD: "I was inspired to read this memoir by the TV series "New Amsterdam" that was based on it. Each chapter focuses on a patient and public health issue. The writing is somewhat bogged down by unnecessary details and metaphors. I learned a lot, much of it disturbing."

A reader from Hadley read *Childhood Experiences of Domestic Violence* by Caroline McGee: "I appreciated the author's use of firsthand accounts from children and women who had experienced domestic violence. It was interesting to note similarities and differences between the country of study (UK) and the US."

A reader from Plymouth read *The Things We Leave Unfinished* by Rebecca Yarros: "My favorite book I've read all year. Scarlett and Jameson's story is so beautiful and heartbreaking. I wasn't expecting the plot twist at the end and I wish I could read it all over again for the first time."

A reader from Wrentham read *Boldly Go* by William Shatner with Joshua Brandon: "I had no idea of the interesting life William Shatner had led!"

A reader from Beverly read *The Anatomy of Story: 22 Steps to Becoming a Master Storyteller* by John Truby: "Lots of examples were from stories I didn't hear or see. so text felt dated. But overall it was helpful as I started outlining a new novel."

A reader from Hopkinton read *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver: "Really disappointed in this. Almost quit several times."

A reader from Hampden read *What Alice Forgot* by Liane Moriarty: "Kept my interest in wanting to find out what would happen when she got her memory back and how that might have changed her."

A reader from Hamilton read *Nora goes off Script* by Annabel Monaghan: "I thought it was really cute. I nice sweet rom com - I love the hallmark movies and this was a fun take on them!"

A reader from Belchertown read *Normal People* by Sally Rooney: "This book was beautifully written; there were so many passages where I had to stop and reread them several times to let them sink in. But every character other than Lorraine was exceptionally infuriating."

A reader from Melrose read *Poverty, By America* by Matthew Desmond: "This book contained a great deal of information of how we could end poverty in this country if we all had the will or desire to do so. We have the resources but they are not distributed according to need. It made me realize the policies that I have been able to take advantage of i.e. mortgage deduction, school loans. It reinforced my awareness that we all must make the elimination of poverty a priority. Hopefully this will happen in my lifetime."

A reader from Monson read *My Hero Academia, vol 34* by Kohei Horikoshi: "Slightly disappointed with this volume, as the super awesome women characters are done dirty by the author once again."

A reader from Thorndike read *When the Sky Fell on Splendor* by Emily Henry: "A story of teens who witness a UFO and discover they have a stronger connection to the entity than they know."

A reader from Wellesley read *Mushroom: A Global History* by Cynthia D. Bertelsen: "This is a great little introduction to the history of mushrooms! It was a bit repetitive in a few places, but as a brief introduction to the topic it was excellent."

A reader from Melrose read *Winter Recipes From the Collective* by Louise Glück: "A lovely short collection of meaningful poems that cut deeper than most poems of Louise Glück's oeuvre. Definitely recommended for those who enjoy poetry."

A reader from Melrose read *Happy Place* by Emily Henry: "My first Emily Henry book and I loved it! Great summer time read!"

A reader from Westminster read *Blueberry Corners* by Lois Lenski: "If you want to read a cozy, home-spun tale then *Blueberry Corners* is the book for you. Lois Lenski describes a large family of eight children in 1840 in the Connecticut hill country. Their trials and tribulations will bring tears and a smile to your face."

A reader from SOUTH YARMOUTH read *The Book of Magic* by Alice Hoffman: "In books with complicated family histories that need to be understood in order to really follow the story, I find it helpful to have a family tree at the beginning of the book which this did not have. Love the descriptions of settings and characters, but sometimes the story telling felt like it was going on for too long. Perhaps I need to read more of Ms Hoffman's books on magic to get a better grasp of her style."

A reader from WAKEFIELD read *The Brass Verdict* by Michael Connelly: "This story kept you engaged from page 1; great summer mystery."

A reader from Fairhaven read *Mirror Lake: a Shady Hollow mystery* by Black, Juneau: "This is the 3rd of the Shady Hollow trilogy and I have just loved the whole series! Animals that behave like human, clever wordplay, and a murder mystery makes for the perfect summer read. If you like cozies, pick these up!"

A reader from Forestdale read *On Mystic Lake* by Kristin Hannah: "True love and finding one's self."

A reader from Lee read *In the Lives of Puppets* by TJ Klune: "TJ Klune knows how to write stories about found families. This was a beautiful retelling of Pinocchio but with robots."

A reader from Palmer read *You Sexy Thing* by Cat Rambo: "I love a good space opera with found family, and this was no exception. There's some humor, but the stakes are high. The story has a satisfying ending-for-now, with a lot left to be explored in a sequel."

A reader from Brockton read *Bad Mormon* by Heather Gay: "Interesting memoir, Real Housewife tells her story of her Mormon upbringing and how she left the church."

A reader from Wilbraham read *Girl With a Pearl Earring* by Tracy Chevalier: "Lovely to read story of the girl who was made famous by the Vermeer painting. Thought provoking historical fiction. I loved it!"

A reader from EAST WEYMOUTH read *Island of Spies* by Sheila Turnage: "Love Sheila Turnage's books and this was no exception. Set in WWII and I learned something new! Great characters."

A reader from North Reading read *The Boy On Cinnamon Street* by Phoebe Stone: "The second-to-last chapter in this book is so good that it kind of overshadows the fact that the rest of the book is fairly mediocre. However I strongly suspect that I am just not at the right age to read this book anymore, as it is a middle-grade novel; maybe someone in middle school would feel a much greater kinship with these characters than I do."

A reader from Sandwich read *Unraveling* by Peggy Orenstein: "Wonderful read covering Covid, crafting and the confusion of living!"

A reader from Fitchburg read *Little Monsters* by Adrienne Brodeur: "This was a well-written and kept my interest. It was set in Cape Cod which made it a great summer read. It was about siblings, and secrets, and coming to terms with your past."

A reader from Lowell read *The metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka: "A fantastic tale of a man turned insect, and the effect it has on his family."

A reader from Hopkinton read *Omnivore's Dilemma* by Michael Pollan: "Makes you really think about where your food comes from, and the pitfalls of going for the convenient, cheap grocery store options - where even the seemingly healthy, unprocessed options may not be what they seem. Here in Massachusetts we have a lot of small farms - support them if you can..."

A reader from Beverly read *The Power Broker. Robert Moses and the Fall of New York* by Robert Caro: "Robert Caro is a masterful writer. This nonfiction book about Robert Moses reads like a novel. Yet the research Caro conducted (over 520 interviews and 7 years of study) shines through. The details are incredible. I felt as though I was right there in New York State with Robert Moses building bridges, beaches, and highways and wielding tremendous power. I will say that I disliked Robert Moses personally and I felt that he was quite selfish and arrogant, but I respected that he had a vision and he worked to make that vision a reality. He expected others to be grateful for his work, yet he never seemed to take

into account that people want a say in how their city and state are built and run. His ego got in the way. This book is long, about 1200 pages, but totally worth the read. It was published in 1974. It still holds up well. I hope many more people will choose to read it as it's message is timeless."

A reader from Brookline read *You look like a thing and I love you* by Janelle Shane: "An illuminating and fun book about the powers and limitations of Artificial Intelligence, intended for the non-computer specialist. I certainly learned a lot."

A reader from Swansea read *Marrying off Morgan McBride* by Amy Barry: "The second book in a series, I did like the first book "Kit McBride Gets a Wife" better. I enjoyed the family story in this book, and the setting. A great read!"

A reader from Swansea read *Every day: the graphic novel* by David Levithan: "David Levithan is one of my favorite authors. I read the novel version of this title when it came out many years ago, and loved it. The graphic novel adaptation was great, the illustrations were wonderful. There were parts that were a little hard to read, because I just felt so badly for the main character."

A reader from Medford read *The Soul of an Octopus* by Sy Montgomery: "I was enchanted and learned so much about octopuses. Now I feel compelled to visit the New England Aquarium as well as watch lots of octopus movies, documentaries, and videos. Such fascinating and intriguing creatures!"

A reader from SPRINGFIELD read *The Secret History Of Wonder Woman* by Jill Lepore: "Really Fascinating read; as a comic book fan, I really enjoy learning the history of the pop culture I love. I especially love the examination of Mastron's ideas about feminism, relationships, and sexuality and how that influenced the development of the character."

A reader from Belchertown read *Fourth Wing* by Rebecca Yarros: "My hold on the hit book Fourth Wing came up just in time for the July challenge! I landed home from a red-eye flight from California and went straight to the library to pick it up! Phenomenal fantasy that had me hooked from the start!"

A reader from Stoneham read *Atomic Habits* by James Clear: "Oof had a hard time with this one. Did not enjoy it. The advice is either too generic or too anecdotal."

A reader from Lynnfield read "*Finlay Donovan is Killing It*" by Elle Cosimano: "This is a contemporary murder mystery with a really original and compelling concept: a single mom/author is mistaken for a hit-woman and hired to dispose of a "problem husband." It also has an impossible-to-put-down plot, and I kept thinking while reading, "How is this going to end???"

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Death of a Knit Wit* by Peggy Ehrhart: "This is the first book I've read by this author. I liked the characters and feel like they could be friends if I met them in real life. The mystery was interesting and the ending was a surprise."

A reader from Brewster read *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus: "Set in the 1960s about a female chemist who becomes a star on a popular cooking show. Very entertaining!"

A reader from Amesbury read *In/spectre volume 11* by Kyo shirodaira: "It was a fun read."

A reader from Chelmsford read *The Madness of Crowds* by Louise Penny: "This is the first of four books I have checked out of the Chelmsford Library this month so far. Our library is one of my favorite places in

town. The Librarians and staff are friendly, helpful and welcoming. I visit my library at least once a week. The novel is the 17th in this wonderful series. I've just started reading the 18th."

A reader from Florence read *The Pope at War* by David I Kertzer: "It sheds new light on why the Pope didn't do anything to stop the cruelty before and during World War Two. Too many notes that I felt should have been included in the text. It was very distracting flipping back and forth."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Wish you were here* by Jodi Picoult: "Loved it- the twist offered a punch-in the gut where I couldn't put it down. Relevant and relatable story."

A reader from Lowell read *Hell's Paradise: Jigokuraku* by Yuji Kaku: "Epic start to an incredible journey, both of the self and an exploration of humanity's desire to live eternally. Gabimaru and Sigiri learn about themselves from the assumptions of the other."

A reader from Essex read *Crying in H Mart* by Michelle Zauner: "Loved her honesty about her complicated relationship with her mother."

A reader from Providence read *Home* by Toni Morrison: "Thought provoking and beautifully written."

A reader from West Falmouth read *Minerva's Owls* by Mary Petiet: "Not what i expected or hoped for - but for a person into yoga it might have been interesting. I'm more enjoying the Songs of Trees by David Haskell."

A reader from Sandwich read *Satisfaction Guaranteed* by Karelia Stetz-Waters: "This was a fun deviation from what I typically find myself reading; definitely a summer beach read."

A reader from Erving read *The Stranger in the Lifeboat* by Mitch Albom: "I expected to like it more than I did based on recommendations from people and from another book by the author (Tuesdays....)."

A reader from Enfield read *Do Not Disturb* by Freida McFadden: "This thriller had my on the edge. I needed to know how it would end. I really liked how it the author changed perspectives."

A reader from Winthrop read *You Could Make This Place Beautiful* by Maggie Smith: "Heartbreaking memoir about divorce and finding yourself in the sadness."

A reader from Franklin read *Lost Crow Conspiracy* by Rosalyn Eves: "Book 2 of the Blood Rose Rebellion. Not as great as book 1 but definitely an enjoyable read. I kept wanting to know what happens next. I'm already well into book 3."

A reader from Northfield read *The House of Lincoln* by Nancy Horan: "Abe Lincoln has always been my favorite president; his story is complicated, as was the time period. The author has a wonderful way of writing about facts, as well as intertwining pieces of historical fiction. This book also provided new information that I was unaware of; I enjoyed it immensely!"

A reader from Worcester read *Babel* by R. F. Kuang: "An Amazing book not just about magic and fantasy but about colonialism and the industrial revolution. How these events effected so many people."

A reader from Amesbury read *Llewellyn's Little Book of Halloween* by Mickie Mueller: "A neat little book that explores the history of Halloween & Halloween traditions. Also provides modern ways of celebrating Halloween and incorporating magic and Samhain into your celebrations. Some of the information was a little repetitive at times."

A reader from Three Rivers read *Mad Honey* by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan: "This book was insightful and a good choice to read. It brought to light how the judicial system is flawed while educating on transgender."

A reader from Woburn read *Quietly Hostile* by Samantha Irby: "Irby's writing makes me laugh out loud, which I appreciate! Essay collections get a bit dragged out for me, but otherwise I enjoyed this one."

A reader from Lowell read *Daisy Jones & the Six* by Taylor Jenkins Reid: "The format of this book not only made it a breeze to read but provided such an interesting insight into so many different characters all at once. By that end, I felt like I knew and understood each character; the allusions to Fleetwood Mac didn't hurt either!"

A reader from Malden read *Miss Pickthorn and Mr Hare A Fable* by May Sarton: "I enjoyed this books brevity and powerful quotations. Lessons to be learned."

A reader from North Reading read *Clap When You Land* by Elizabeth Acevedo: "This book was great, original, and wildly different from anything else I've ever read."

A reader from middleboro read *the inn* by james patterson: "an ex cop who runs an inn. him and his wife bought the inn than she passed away. he mourns his wifes passing and protects the residence of the inn at all cost. this book is really really good."

A reader from Stanford read *Look For Me* by Lisa Gardner: "I enjoyed the mystery but found that the story line was too drawn out. My interest waned with too many details."

A reader from Wilmington read *The Whispers* by Ashley Audrain: "Completely engrossed from page one!"

A reader from Franklin read *Ukulele of Death* by EJ Copperman: "This book was fun, easy to read— perfect for vacation reading."

A reader from Braintree read *The Witch King* by Martha Wells: "This latest book from Martha was a good read. The World is so full of characters and culture that I wanted the book to keep going to learn more."

A reader from Hanson read *Miss Eliza's English Kitchen* by Annabel Abbs: "A look into cooking during the Victorian age with the themes of friendship, women's rights and the social/economic layers of society."

A reader from Northampton read *Foundation* by Isaac Asimov: "This was a re-read for me and is still one of my favorite Sci-Fi books."

A reader from WILBRAHAM read *Miss Julia Speaks Her Mind* by Ann B Ross: "Julia Springer, a charming Southern widow lady, receives a visit from her late husband's other woman with a little boy in tow. The story takes off from there with plenty of humor, action and fun. I plan to read more of the Miss Julia series."

A reader from Dracut read *The Last of the Flower Bride* by Roshani Chokshi: "This beautifully written novel felt almost like a dark fairytale. I was slightly unsure about the book about halfway through the book, but I am glad I finished it."

A reader from Swansea read *R-E-S-P-E-C-T: Aretha Franklin, the Queen of Soul* by Carole Boston Weatherford: “The poetic verses and the vibrant art by Frank Morrison present a vibrant portrait of this woman who was "born to sing." The Author's Note provides a biography and a list of her biggest hits.”

A reader from AMHERST read *Small Things Like These* by Claire Keegan: “This was our library book club book this month. Short but powerful!”

A reader from Harwich read *Love Anthony* by Lisa Genova: “I love Lisa Genova’s books and was happy to find one I hadn’t yet read at my library. She has a great way of capturing the essence of neurological disorders (and family dynamics) — this one about autism.”

A reader from greenfield read *This is how it always is* by Laurie Frankel: “Very interesting novel about a family with four boys who were hoping for a girl during their fifth pregnancy. The baby was male cisgender but identified as female very early on and the novel is about her, her family and her community adapting (and sometimes not) to her identification.”

A reader from Northampton read *The Permaculture Promise* by Jono Neiger: “With brief text and lots of color illustrations, this book gives a high-level overview dozens of ways the principles of permaculture design can help address climate change, strengthen communities, and build resilience into systems from water to energy to finance.”

A reader from Westborough read *Carved In Bone* by Jefferson Bass: “First in a murder/mystery series. Set at the Body Farm location, but not filled with gruesome details. Nice characterizations, ended with characters in position with personal growth, set for more stories.”

A reader from Turners Falls read *The House In The Pines* by Ana Reyes: “Interested read, and a bonus that it was set in Pittsfield.”

A reader from Fitchburg read *Same Time Next Summer* by Annabel Monaghan: “Fun summer read but I was hoping to like it more especially since her last book was a 5 star read for me last year.”

A reader from Melrose read *For we are many* by Denis E. Taylor: “Witty, nerdy, and fun hard science speculative fiction about a bunch of "replicants" (computer minds created by "copying" human brains) trying to save the universe and Earth's remaining humans. 5/5.”

A reader from Boston read *The Strange Inheritance of Leah Fern* by Rita Zoey Chin: “A sad but hopeful story.”

A reader from Swansea read *Soppy* by Philippa Rice: “Adorable illustrations. I enjoyed the everyday-ness of the comics - a true love story.”

A reader from Chicopee read *Writing and Failure* by Stephen Marche: “A book about not letting failure define your path as a writer, but instead using perseverance when writing.”

A reader from Wilmington read *Babel an Arcane History* by R. F. Kuang: “There were parts of this book that I liked and found to be quite thought provoking, but I felt that it went on for far too long and I had trouble staying engaged.”

A reader from Oakham read *The Maidens* by Alex Michaelides: “When a serial killer strikes at Cambridge College, Mariana, a psychotherapist, rushes to protect her beloved niece. Suspects include a predatory

professor, one of Mariana's disturbed patients, a subway stalker--and of course, the dorm butler. Who is victimizing members an elite group of students called "The Maidens"--that's the unexpected twist. Suspenseful, disturbing, but it takes some knowledge of the classics (Greek) and psychology to get the nuances."

A reader from Abington read *Crucible of Hell* by Saul David: "I learned a lot from this book about WWII, the battle for Okinawa in 1945, Japanese culture, the atomic bomb and the tragedy of war. Mostly I learned that I'm embarrassingly ignorant on all of those topics. The book included many personal stories of soldiers and in that way made it clear what a tragedy war can be and how little life is valued by many engaging in war."

A reader from Enfield read *One of us is lying* by Karen McManus: "So riveting! I could not put this one down."

A reader from Beverly read *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* by J.K. Rowling: "Best Harry Potter book yet! I couldn't stop reading it once I picked it up."

A reader from Middleboro read *A Soft Place to Land* by Susan Rebecca White: "The author was trying very hard to tell a warm, sisterly love story with traumatic experiences that cause ripples and chasms. While at times it was touching, the character development was a bit one-sided. It was a good book...it just could have been better."

A reader from Santa Cruz read *The Four Agreements* by Don Miguel Ruiz: "Inspiring book about living life referencing Toltec wisdom. The author talks about the source of negative thinking and how to replace it with powerful thoughts and actions. Inspiring."

A reader from Los Alamos read *Things to Look Forward To* by Sophie Blackall: "I first checked this out from my library and then I bought it for myself as well as gifts for several others. I pick it up often to look at Sophie's illustrations and read a page or two. I'm contemplating creating my own such book."

A reader from Rochester read *Seraphina* by Rachel Hartman: "Loved the mix of human and dragon characters and the way their personalities drove the story. It was good to browse through the library shelves (and find so many I want to read!) rather than just look online for ebooks and audiobooks."

A reader from Reading read *The Furrows* by Namwalli Serpell: "An intriguing story about the effect a brother's death has on his sister throughout her life. The narrative moves into surprising directions that take this story places I didn't anticipate."

A reader from Somerville read *Life on Delay* by John Hendrickson: "A very poignant raw memoir from a lifelong stutterer. This book hit me particularly hard because I have a teenage son who stutters. I would recommend this book to anyone who wants to understand more about what life is like for someone who stutters."

A reader from Centerville read *I Am Homeless if This is Not My Home* by Lorrie Moore: "I requested this from the library based on a recommendation from Book Page, I think. It's part ghost story, part diary, part ode to love and our connection to those we love."

A reader from Hudson read *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* by Benjamin Alire Saenz: "A delicate balance of heartbreaking and compassionate."

A reader from Lowell read *Ninth House* by Leigh Bardugo: "Immersive spooky and magical fiction with a tough MC."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *The People We Keep* by Allison Larkin: "I really enjoyed this book, it was a heartwarming story."

A reader from Belchertown read *We Were Strangers Once* by Betsy Carter: "Historical novel - a genre that is fast becoming a favorite - enables to read actual history but with created characters. Their plights are real but they live only between the covers of the book. Read and learn the real American story: no streets of gold but hard stone. Fighting and accepting what comes your way or given. Jobs that you are not suited to but enable you to eke out an existence until 'things get better.' A good read - you won't put it down."

A reader from Braintree read *the Secret Book of Flora Lea* by Patti Callahan Henry: "Combining the terrible effects of a war with a child's fairytale woven through its days takes us to a special place children live when under stress. The author cleverly details the way a child's mind can cope with fear. Well done and highly recommended."

A reader from Rochester read *Storm watch* by C. J. Box: "I'm a big fan of c j Box and love his Joe Pickett series. Joe is a very down to earth character and always manages to get in to trouble doing the right thing. If you haven't read a CJ Box book you should."

A reader from Hopkinton read *The House on the Cerulean Sea* by TJ Klune: "Fun fantasy allegory exploring how different doesn't mean worse. Acceptance for who we are. Feels YA, which is maybe why there was so much line repetition."

A reader from Tewksbury read *Hard Time* by Cara McKenna: "I enjoyed the epistolary nature of the book!"

A reader from Northampton read *True Biz* by Sara Nović: "A phenomenal book that everyone should read that gives a broad and captivating telling of aspects of deaf culture, community, and experience."

A reader from Stoneham read *The Beach House* by Rachel Hanna: "I read *The Beach House* written and published by Rachel Hanna. It's the first of a series set on an island off of South Carolina. A woman suddenly finds herself divorced when she decides to fulfill her dream of living at the beach. It's a wonderful story full of lovable and amazing characters and some not so lovable ones too. Great summer series!!"

A reader from Worcester read *Symphony of Secrets* by Brendan Slocumb: "Loved this book - Slocumb skillfully couples music history and suspense in this laudable follow-up to his first book, *The Violin Conspiracy*. Would highly recommend."

A reader from Whately read *Rules for Visiting* by Jessica Francis Kane: "I think my expectations were based on the reviews so I didn't enjoy it like I thought I would. For most of the book the main character seemed to be a sad unhappy person. The glass was usually half empty. I had anticipated a very different story."

A reader from WAKEFIELD read *I Have Some Questions For You* by Rebecca Makkai: "A riveting page turner but also a contemplation on our imperfect legal system, the infallibility of memory, the teenage

years as liminal moment between childhood and adulthood, and, perhaps mostly, the risks of being a woman in the world. If you want to read a standard whodunnit, you will be disappointed, but if you want some bran with your brain candy, Makkai delivers.”

A reader from Paxton read *Drama Free* by Nedra Glover Tawwab: “If you're looking to improve your relationships, especially with family, this book is a great place to start.”

A reader from Attleboro read *Shutter Island* by Dennis Lehane: “WOW! What a twist. This was so well written, I can't stop thinking about it. So glad I read the book before seeing the movie. Never would have imagined all of that was what it was!”

A reader from Holden read *Mrs. Dalloway* by Virginia Woolf: “This is a classic that I've been meaning to read for a while. The inventive structure of the narrative is as impressive as the characters are engaging.”

A reader from Attleboro read *Forget Me Not* by Jennifer Lowe-Anker: “Excellent memoir from the perspective of the wife of a mountain climber, filled with excerpts from letters Alex Lowe wrote home during his excursions away from the family. Even if you are not interested in climbing, this was a moving and interesting book.”

A reader from Dracut read *Testimony of Light* by Helen Greaves: “Dracut Library's book borrowed, *Testimony of Light*, has opened my eyes to the possibility of life after death, eternal life, life in a higher reality. Wow.”

A reader from Reading read *Light From Uncommon Stars* by Ryka Aoki: “I enjoyed the book, but sometimes had to reread sections to make sure I understood the context.”

A reader from Lowell read *Wrong Place Wrong Time* by Gillian McAllister: “This was a well done time travel book regarding going back in time. I really liked the strong connections and relationships a mother explored as she tried to secure her family's future by reliving the past.”

A reader from Shrewsbury read *The American Roommate Experiment* by Elena Armas: “I am just as delighted with the second book as with *The Spanish Love Deception*. I grinned like a fool, I cried - It was everything I want from a romance novel. 11/10 stars.”

A reader from Pepperell read *Hello Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano: “Wonderful story about sisters and their coming of age.”

A reader from New York read *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison: “This was an exquisitely written look at race, class and gender in the U.S. after the Great Depression. It was a sad yet eye-opening read.”

A reader from Buckland read *The Haunting of Alejandra* by V Castro: “A powerful story based on a Mexican myth about motherhood, mental issues and a ghost who haunts the main character.”

A reader from West Simsbury read *The Beauty of Humanity Movement* by Camilla Gibb: “I will never be able to eat pho again without thinking of this book and of the rich and turbulent history of Vietnam. Beautifully crafted and layered, like a fine bowl of pho.”

A reader from Seekonk read *I was told it would get easier* by Abbi Waxman: “This book is nostalgic for those of us women who have ever been a teenager and navigated the future with our intrepid mothers.”

A reader from Longmeadow read *Spare* by Prince Harry: "I've never been much of a Prince Harry fan, so I hadn't planned to read his best-selling memoir. However, when I actually saw it on the shelf for the first time at my local library, I decided to give it a try. The book divides Harry's life into three time periods, includes some well-publicized "shockers," and is written in an easy-to-read conversational style. I'm still not much of a fan, but I now have a better understanding of Harry's unique life as a Royal and the difficulties he's faced. Worth the read."

A reader from Worcester read *The Shadow of the Wind* by Carlos Ruiz Zafon: "I couldn't put it down! It was a super intricate mystery that I kept trying to solve. The writing was also beautiful. I really enjoyed this one."

A reader from Boston read *Eleven* by Carolyn Arnold: "An FBI Procedural catching the murders of 10 maybe 11 people."

A reader from Fitchburg read *Rock, paper, scissors* by Alice Feeney: "Interesting concept. I liked the twist at the end and did not see it coming."

A reader from Beverly read *The No-Show* by Beth O'Leary: "It was okay. It made me want to know how the story connected whether I liked the characters or not."

A reader from Plainville read *The Huntress* by Kate Quinn: "Kate Quinn's books always keep you guessing and this one was no different!"

A reader from Northampton read *War Torn Stories of War from the Women Reporters Who Covered Vietnam* by Tad Bartimus & 8 other women reporters: "Nine women reporters - each wrote a chapter about what she saw and felt covering the Vietnam War. They were so young - most in their 20s - they lived, loved and worked in Vietnam with a passionate intensity. Wars don't ever end - like many my age, I lost friends in Vietnam and know those who came back but... These nine women Denby Fawcett, Ann Bryan Mariano, Kate Webb, Anne Morrissy Merick, Jurate Kazickas, Edith Lederer, Tad Bartimus, Tracy Wood and Laura Palmer went to Vietnam during the war and were forever changed. I think we need to read about war so we don't ever forget its daily and lingering horrors. May knowing that keep us working for peace."

A reader from Lynnfield read *Our missing hearts* by Celeste Ng: "I loved it and make you think about the dangers of our current politics environment."

A reader from Longmeadow read *To Sir Phillip, With Love* by Julia Quinn: "I love the Bridgerton novels! Eloise's story is particularly enjoyable because she's such a strong character on her own."

A reader from Leominster read *Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Murderers* by Jesse Q. Sutanto: "Enjoyable book that held my interest and made me care about the central mystery and the group of people it brought together."

A reader from Beverly read *The Five-Star Weekend* by Elin Hilderbrand: "Fun summer read! Great take on female friendships with some drama mixed in."

A reader from Boston/ Yarmouth read *Love, Clancy: A Diary of a Good Dog* by W. Bruce Cameron: "A charming, sweet story told from the perspective of Clancy, the very good dog. Each chapter begins with

Clancy's journal entry and then continues to describe all the characters (human, canine and feline), places and adventures Clancy interacts with."

A reader from Spencer read *A very typical family* by Sierra Godfrey: "Family is messy. The character driven plot kept me engrossed in this novel. I couldn't wait to see what happened."

A reader from Cambridge read *Our Wives Under the Sea* by Julia Armfield: "A good book club book as it gave us a lot to talk about"

A reader from Attleboro read *61 Hours* by Lee Child: "Lee Child is one of my few go-to authors for series action mysteries. His main character Jack Reacher does not disappoint. Reacher is a big, strong, savvy, experienced ex-military man who finds himself each time becoming an "equalizer" for persons in trouble with the wrong people."

A reader from Somerville read *The Obelisk Gate* by N.K. Jemisin: "I am a librarian, so I borrow all my books from the library, but for this month I challenged myself to check out a book from my local, not workplace, library. *The Obelisk Gate* is a stunning, uncanny sequel to *The Fifth Season*. I love how skin-crawlingly, truly scary this series is."

A reader from Melrose read *When All is Said* by Anne Griffin: "Interesting account of how trauma can influence the course of people's lives, and the struggles and regret that come along with it."

A reader from Leominster read *A very typical family* by Sierra Godfrey: "I liked it. I didn't expect the twist until the end which is not usual for me! I wish there was more character development."

A reader from Hampden read *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI* by David Grann: "A true crime murder mystery that reads like the best fictional police procedural. A meticulously researched report on a terrible American tragedy that happened in the last days of the wild, west in Oklahoma in the 1920's. Gives insight about the enmity that indigenous people have a right to feel. Always important to continue learning about our past no matter how painful."

A reader from Taunton read *A Marvelous Life* by Danny Fingeroth: "This was a good look into the history of Marvel Comics and the career of Stan Lee."

A reader from Northampton read *The scourge between stars* by Ness Brown: "It's a short spooky alien spaceship story. Delivers what was promised in this fun little novel. (Novella?)"

A reader from Worcester read *Midnight at the Bright Ideas Bookstore* by Matthew Sullivan: "It was well written, very suspenseful and had great plot twists. I couldn't put it down!"

A reader from Shrewsbury read *A history of kindness* by Linda Hogan: "I never read poetry. So I wanted something different this month. I really enjoyed it."

A reader from Marblehead read *The Bandit Queen* by Parini Shroff: "Great story, well written."

A reader from Fitchburg read *A Very Typical Family* by Sierra Godfrey: "It did not go deep into each character's story, but had an interesting storyline."

A reader from Holden read *Gone With the Wind* by Margaret Mitchell: "For this month, I turned to a book I read MANY times in my youth but hadn't read in close to 30 years. I wanted to reread the story I had so loved as a child to see what I noticed now that I know more about the Civil War, its causes,

events, and aftermath. It was incredibly eye-opening to read now and at times uncomfortable. That said, I enjoyed meeting the characters again after so many years!”

A reader from Atkinson read *Paris: The Memoir* by Paris Hilton: “Eye-opening. I loved how honest and real Paris is in discussing her trauma.”

A reader from Paxton read *Hello Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano: “I enjoyed it, but did not seem up to the hype.”

A reader from Amherst read *When Brooklyn Was Queer* by Hugh Ryan: “Fascinating history of LGBTQ Brooklyn 1850-1969. So much great research and important stories.”

A reader from Sandwich read *Of Sea and Cloud* by Jon Keller: “Living on Cape Cod, I have great respect for the hard working lobstermen. As a book of fiction, this story depicts a very dark and sometimes brutal side of the lobstering industry. The characters' sense of justice re unwritten rules leads to revenge and murder. The plot draws one in like a lobster to a trap!”

A reader from Uxbridge read *Sweetwater and the Witch* by Jayne Castle: “I love this series by Jayne Castle. The futuristic world is interesting and the balance between mystery, action, romance and supernatural is perfect.”

A reader from Beverly read *Going Bicoastal* by Dahlia Adler: “I thought the book had an interesting premise, but it never felt fully formed in the execution. A decent summer read.”

A reader from Salem read *Our Hideous Progeny* by C.E. McGill: “Fantastic story, couldn't put it down.”

A reader from East Sandwch read *Such Kindness* by Andre Dubus III: “Dubus III gave a wonderful reading at Titcombs, our local bookstore. A new author/a new story!”

A reader from Wilmington read *The Man Who Walked Between The Towers* by Mordicai Gerstein: “He used to be a street performer and he wanted to do something that was the most dangerous thing ever.”

A reader from Taunton read *Beating About the Bush* by M.C. Beaton: “This is #30 in the Agatha Raisin series. Delightful cozy mystery, set in the English Cotswold area...humor, suspense, romance, interesting characters, and always a twist to the resolution of the crime!”

A reader from Shelburne Falls read *Someday, Maybe* by Onyi Nwabinelli: “Not a happy read, but the grieving protagonist and her supportive loved ones felt so real-- love, flaws and all-- I couldn't help but tenderly cheer them on.”

A reader from New York read *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman: “I was surprised by how I enjoyed the book. I'm not typically drawn to "unlikable" protagonists, but this book was beautifully written and had great character development.”

A reader from Marriottsville read *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks: “Wonderful story about devotion and dedication and honor with regard to caring for others and for animals. Great way of tying in past history with the present.”

A reader from Somerville read *Nomadland: Surviving America in the Twenty First Century* by Jessica Bruder: “I didn't love it. More of a book on socioeconomics than what I was expecting, travel. The story was told the same way, over and over, throughout the book. Glad I read it but likely will not read again.”

A reader from Belchertown read *The Diamond Eye* by Kate Quinn: "This book tells the story of a very successful female Russian sniper during WWII. It's a topic I've never thought about but it was a fictionalized account of a real woman who came to the USA with a group encouraging FDR to have the USA get involved in the war. Very interesting."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Cathedral Window Quilts* by Lynne Edwards: "This book gives detailed step-by-step instructions for making stunning Cathedral Window quilts of many sizes. It was so informative that I bought a copy of my own after I returned the library's copy."

A reader from South Weymouth read *Maybe in Another Life* by Taylor Jenkins Reid: "This was a fun read. It was heavier and smarter than a lot of books from the similar genre."

A reader from Springfield read *The Hazards of Love* by Stan Stanley: "This book takes figuring out what it means to be your own self and how to deal with the consequences of your actions and put it into this fantastically colorful world. I can't wait for the next one in this series."

A reader from Hampden read *Mudbound* by Hillary Jordan: "I really enjoyed this book. It was written very true to that time in our country."

A reader from Attleboro read *Dash & Lily's Book of Dares* by Rachel Cohn & David Levithan: "A cute story that I watched the Netflix series of first, *Dash & Lily's Book of Dares* involves some good themes but also some apparent cheating by the main characters. I do like that the Strand Bookstore is a setting in the novel - 4 stars."

A reader from Braintree read *Macrame Jewelry* by Isabella Strambio: "No longer are macrame projects only made out of jute. These projects are made from different types of colorful fibers and are fairly easy."

A reader from Enfield read *A Monster Calls* by Patrick Ness: "This story really hit me where it hurts. It's a gorgeous blend of self-help book disguised as fiction, deeply emotional story about a boy processing grief, and macabre folktale all boiled together into one. Great read!"

A reader from Hampden read *Good Company* by Cynthia D'Apris Sweeney: "I felt the story was a little forced. Also, the characters were somewhat shallow."

A reader from Fitchburg read *The Door-To-Door Bookstore* by Carsten Henn: "I absolutely loved this story about an old man and a young girl, joined by their love of books. This one moved me to tears!"

A reader from Hadley read *Two Serious Ladies* by Jane Bowles: "This book is a hidden gem—a fascinating character study of two friends as they go on separate paths to break away from the comfort and security of their otherwise mundane privileged lives. However, both seem bent on torturing themselves in their newfound lifestyles. This is the story of their divergent paths and culminates in their reunion."

A reader from Weymouth read *Economics 101* by Alfred Mill: "Funny and interesting book about about Economics. One economist said in the book, 'I became an economist because I didn't have the personality to be an accountant.'"

A reader from Reading read *Just the Nicest Couple* by Mary Kubica: "A thriller that started strong but then stalled as nothing really happened. Would recommend other books by the author instead of this one."

A reader from Fitchburg read *Somerset* by Leila Meacham: “Wonderful book. It's story begins in 1830 in South Carolina... weaving together the lives of 3 families that spans a century. By the end, you feel like you know the characters. Thank goodness there was a sequel!!”

A reader from Northampton read *The Price of Salt* by Patricia Highsmith: “A lesbian love story. An interesting snapshot of decisions and love.”

A reader from Hanover read *Magic for Liars* by Sarah Gailey: “A murder mystery at a magic academy: One of the professors is dead, and the PI investigating the case doesn't have magic! A fun mash-up of who-dun-its and Harry Potter.”

A reader from Palmer read *You Sexy Thing* by Cat Rambo: “Niko Larson and her crew have done the nearly impossible, leaving the military service of the Holy Hive Mind, and now they own a restaurant on TwiceFar, where a famous critic is about to come. But then TwiceFar is attacked, and the critic and Niko's crew escape on a sentient bioship, <i>You Sexy Thing</i>. Their adventures are just beginning, and Niko's past is a little closer than expected.”

A reader from Harwich read *Road Trips Ireland* by DK Eyewitness: “Ah! Ireland! The memories and the dreams...”

A reader from Enfield read *One of Us is Lying* by Karen McManus: “A very riveting read! Loved all the twist and turns.”

A reader from Lynnfield read *Going Postal* by Terry Pratchett: “Terry Pratchett is always a comfort read for me. I hadn't read this one in a long time, and it was delightful.”

A reader from Plainville read *The Heart's Invisible Furies* by John Boyne: “Beautifully told.”

A reader from Boston read *All the Days of Summer* by Nancy Thayer: “A good summer read - love lost & love found at the beach”

A reader from Hopkinton read *The Heart's Invisible Furies* by John Boyne: “Wonderful! Adoptive family, growing up gay in Ireland, violence, love, tragedy, peace.”

A reader from Sutton read *The Land of Stories; An Author's Odyssey* by Chris Colfer: “Definitely tough to jump back into a series in the middle after a few months, but glad to have an excuse to finish the series. This book was the deepest and most profound with the best life lessons of the series so far!”

A reader from Kingston read *Wandering Souls* by Cecile Pin: “Wandering Souls was a haunting novel detailing the plight of Vietnamese orphans and the lasting effects survivor's guilt and unconditional love.”

A reader from Springfield read *French Braid- a Novel* by Anne Tyler: “This year I am participating in the #massbookreadingchallenge. July's challenge/ book is to read a book from the library. French Braid by Anne Taylor traveled to Puerto Rico with me this month. What a book of family dynamics with unexpected twists and turns. I enjoyed it very much.”

A reader from East Taunton read *Conspirata* by Robert Harris: “Conspirata is the extraordinary fictional retelling of the beginning days of the decline of the Roman Republic through the eyes of Tiro, Cicero's secretary. Fast paced and engrossing. I loved it.”

A reader from Plainville read *Secrets in Summer* by Nancy Thayer: "Great summer read based in Nantucket!"

A reader from Woburn read *Demon copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver: "This book was tragic and lovely and heartbreaking and uplifting all at once."

A reader from Woburn read *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel: "This is a beautiful book that managed to displace *The Road* in my list of favorite books."

A reader from Salem read *Agent Sonya* by Ben Macintyre: "Profound account of bistrot while also being a very entertaining story!"

A reader from Worcester read *The Skull* by Jon Klassen: "I absolutely adored this book. I'm a huge fan of Klassen's art style, as well as his to-the-point storytelling, and both of those were featured beautifully in this book."

A reader from Montague read *Washed Ashore: Family, Fatherhood and Finding Home on Martha's Vineyard* by Bill Eville: "Enjoyed this glimpse of what it is like to be married to a minister. Also life for the year round people on Martha's Vineyard. Have a trip planned there in October."

A reader from Amherst read *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi: "A powerful epic illustrating the impact of the transatlantic slave trade for generations; both for those stolen from their homes and those who remained in West Africa."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *The Big Over Easy* by Jasper Fforde: "This is the first in a new series by Fforde, where once again, he sends detectives into literature to solve crimes. Jack Spratt, the hero of this series, is part of the Nursery Crime Division and investigates the murder of Humpty Dumpty. The book is hilarious throughout."

A reader from Rochester read *Wing walkers* by Taylor Brown: "The descriptions were some of the best I have seen. I was amazed by the acts people dated to do."

A reader from Stoneham read *Old Bones* by Cynthia Harrod-Eagles: "I have been re-reading mystery series from start to finish which sometimes requires some searching for the books. I was happy to find this in my local library. I enjoy the characters in the series even when, as in this one, the crime is a nasty one that stays with me for a while."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Before She Finds Me* by Heather Chavez: "Heather Chavez has become a new favorite author and her most recent book did not disappoint. I found it a little more slow burn than her others, but I certainly kept turning the pages. The cat and mouse game between the protagonists was interesting, and you can't help but root for Julia and her daughter."

A reader from Plymouth read *This Will Only Hurt a Little* by Busy Philipps: "A fast, fun read that is both thoughtful and salacious."

A reader from Wilmington read *The Kaiju Preservation Society* by John Scalzi: "Good read. Parallel universe story updated 2022. Sort of Asimov for millennials. Gonna read more by him"

A reader from Hudson read *What Happened to Ruthy Ramirez* by Claire Jimenez: "This is a novel about a Puerto Rican mother and her three daughters living in Staten Island. The middle daughter disappears

when she is thirteen, but seems to turn up again twelve years later on a reality TV show, and the family drives to where the show is filmed in search of her. There's lots of cultural color and the characters are very relatable.”

A reader from Weymouth read *Night Over Water* by Ken Follett: “The author skillfully blended the lives of his characters into the historical happenings of September 1939. It was interesting to learn about the Pan Am Clipper and the life style aboard this flying ship. I thoroughly enjoyed this book.”

A reader from Salem read *Icebreaker* by Hannah Grace: “This was a fun read. Not as spicy as BookTok made it out to be, but a fun sexy read.”

A reader from Cohasset read *Eight perfect murders* by Peter swanson: “Enjoy mysteries and stories with a tie in to books and bookstores. Had a twist to plot. This author was new to me and I enjoyed this book!”

A reader from Stoneham read *Fire With Fire* by Candice Fox: “Good mystery/thriller. Combination of veteran cop and rookie cop made for two good characters.”

A reader from Woods Hole read *Before the coffee gets cold* by Toshikazu Kawaguchi: “Beautiful reading about not just people coming into the cafe to go back in time, but also fun bits about cultural norms of people and interpersonal relationships. Really fun read about time travel with unusual rules.”

A reader from Reading read *The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman: “This book was such a fun read! I immediately went and read the rest of the series and cannot wait for the next one to come out!”

A reader from Lancaster read *Crooked* by Laura & Tom McNeil: “This has always been one of my favorite books about how people view themselves and each other. Things aren’t always what they seem and danger disguises itself in many ways.”

A reader from Lowell read *The Golden Spoon* by Jessa Maxwell: “I thought this was a fun read. I liked how the plot was told through the Bake Week contestants' eyes and you didn't really know who the victim was until 3/4 through the book. While it is a murder mystery, there are also a couple of interesting subplots.”

A reader from Weymouth read *The Uncommon Reader* by Alan Bennett: “This book was so delightful and refreshing. It was witty and very well written and often made me laugh as I was reading it.”

A reader from Salem read *The Love Hypothesis* by Ali Hazelwood: “I had been wanting to read this book for a while but never managed to get around to it, so this was the perfect opportunity to finally do it! It was a fun story with a unique narrative voice and great chemistry between the two main characters, as well as diverse representation and interesting discussions on love, relationships, and following one’s dreams and heart.”

A reader from Conway read *The General’s Daughter* by Nelson Demille: “Interesting concept, sad commentary on how a person can be so dedicated to an organization at the cost to one’s family.”

A reader from Hudson read *Crow Mary* by Kathleen Grisson: “Based on the true story of the Cypress Hills Massacre, this well-researched novel brings Mary Crow a.k.a. Goes First to life. What impressed me the most was how the author very respectfully worked with Mary’s great-granddaughter as well as Crow

scholars and elders to present the indigenous story as authentically as possible. It is a tragic love story where the culture of the Crow nation blends and clashes with that of the Montana frontiersmen.”

A reader from Attleboro read *Being Heumann* by Judith Heumann: “A very informative and well written book on Heumann's struggle to insure civil rights for herself and other disabled individuals. She was an unrelenting force for change for people with disabilities. I wish I had the opportunity to meet her.”

A reader from Scituate read *Forgive Me Not* by Samantha Tonge: “Loved it... dealt with recovery and Alzheimer's and communities.”

A reader from Plymouth read *Crescent City House of Sky and Breath* by Sarah J. Maas: “Intense, thrilling, full of sarcasm and clever exchanges with twists and turns that keep you on the edge of your seat.”

A reader from Charlton read *Local Woman Missing* by Mary Kubica: “Psychological thriller. Lots of twists and turns.”

A reader from West Yarmouth read *The Story of More* by Hope Jahren: “I love how Hope Jahren's books feel like you're having a conversation with her. I wish we didn't have to have this conversation though, about climate change, but we do. Interesting and informative, this is an important book everyone should read.”

A reader from Attleboro read *This Time Tomorrow* by Emma Struab: “Easy read. Interesting concept. Time travel is not something I would typically read about.”

A reader from West Barnstable read *Instructions for a Heatwave* by Maggie O'Farrell: “Enjoyed the story of a grown Irish family working out relationships to each other while dealing with adult lives & problems all while coming together to help their mother look for their father who has disappeared. During a heatwave!”

A reader from CHICOPEE read *The Last One Left* by Riley Sager: “I really enjoyed reading this book because it had so many twists and turns and it kept me guessing throughout the whole book. I always looked forward to reading it and the ending was quite an unexpected twist. I highly recommend this book and give it 4 1/2 stars.”

A reader from AUBURN read *Anne Frank Remembered - the Story of the Woman Who Helped to Hide the Frank Family* by Miep Gies and Alison Leslie Gold: “This is the incredible story of Miep Gies, a Dutch Christian, who along with her husband, helped hide the Frank family in the office building annex where Mr. Frank worked. They kept the Frank family and others alive by shopping for and sneaking in provisions to them daily. They provided the Frank group every day with food, hope, humor, courage, love, encouragement, forbidden treats, and sorely needed outside companionship ALL the while putting themselves in unimaginable danger. They even provided safe haven in their OWN home for a dissident university student. How these ordinary people found the extraordinary fortitude to do this is nothing short of miraculous. Miep is quoted as saying that she had no time to occupy herself with fear as there was work to be done...”

A reader from Dracut read *The Girls in the Stilt House* by Kelly Mustain: “It was a difficult start, but after couple of chapters I was hooked. It was a powerful story of racism, blackmail, and triumph.”

A reader from Sandwich read *Sole Searching on the Appalachian Trail* by Sam Ducharme: “This was a wonderful book about what it would be like to thru hike the Appalachian Trail. It was well written and you felt like you did the whole hike with him. Definitely a good adventure and what the author learned about himself in doing this hike.”

A reader from Scituate read *The Violin Conspiracy* by Brendan Slocumb: “Have you ever noticed the ethnic composition of most symphony orchestras? This book expertly weaves a violin theft mystery around racial prejudice and classical musicians. Hope you enjoy it as much as I did.”

A reader from Middleboro read *The kind worth saving* by Peter Swanson: “This book is the sequel to “The Kind Worth Killing.” It was an enjoyable read but a little too predictable for me.”

A reader from Beverly read *Trust* by Hernan Diaz: “This book was ok. I finished it but had generally lost interest. The outcome had become obvious and I was disappointed there wasn’t more to it as I had high hopes!”

A reader from Merrimac read *Must Love Books* by Shauna Robinson: “Nora Hughes lands a job at Parsons Press where she hopes to work her way up to her dream job ... editor. Things don't go as she had planned and in the process she learns that the dream job you thought you wanted sometimes ends up being a completely different dream.”

A reader from Wilmington read *All That is Mine I Carry With Me* by William Landay: “Family secrets, murder mystery, page turner. This is a quick read about a defensive attorney suspected of killing his wife. The story takes place in Massachusetts. Very interesting characters but I'm not sure that I'm happy with the ending.”

A reader from Plymouth read *Jesus and John Wayne* by Kristin Kobes Du Mez: “This book was an interesting look at evangelical subculture, but also American culture in general.”

A reader from Weymouth read *The Language of Flowers* by Vanessa Diffenbaugh: “I still could not tell you what the meaning of any of the flowers in the book are, but it was a very enjoyable story. It was like trying to unravel a mystery while flipping back and forth between different periods on the same timeline.”

A reader from Craryville read *Jane’s Fame: How Jane Austen Conquered the World* by Claire Harmon: “A bit rambling and speculative in parts. I was hoping for a more engaging work but I did learn about Jane’s rise in the canon (thank you Henry James) and perhaps most importantly, that what we want most to know about her has sadly been lost to time.”

A reader from Tewksbury read *Things You Save in a Fire* by Katherine Center: “It was predictable but enjoyable.”

A reader from Wilbraham read *Of Women & Salt* by Gabriela Garcia: “A novel seen through many different sets of female eyes, that flows through various times in history, setting up the story of two different immigrant families living in the US.”

A reader from Salem read *Love on the brain* by Ali Hazelwood: “Adorable love story with spicy writing mixed in.”

A reader from Seekonk read *The Wind Knows My Name* by Isabel Allende: "This book tells the story of a Jewish boy sent away alone to escape from Nazi-occupied Germany to the recent immigration policy of separating children from their illegal immigrant parents. While not my favorite of Isabel Allende books, it was a quick and thought-provoking read."

A reader from Plainville read *The Hand of Chaos* by Margaret Weis & Tracy Hickman: "It's good. I didn't realize it was a series and this book is out of sequence so I don't want to say too much. I will go back and read the first book afterwards and continue to this point before finishing the series. I love series books and was looking for something different so it was a pleasant surprise but my OCD Requires I read them in order whether or not it's relevant."

A reader from West Yarmouth read *The Three of Us* by Ore Agbaje-Williams: "Different and good read. Loyalty to family or friend, quite a dilemma!"

A reader from Plainville read *The Hand of Chaos* by Margaret Weis & Tracy Hickman: "I didn't realize it was a series so I need to go back and read from beginning but it was interesting. Something new."

A reader from Yarmouth read *New England Open House cookbook* by Sarah Leah Chase: "This was a cook book featuring New England recipes. It focused extensively on our seafood and produce. A few of my favorites: cranberry salsa, scallop stew, Judy's easy baked beans. Some different ideas to try. This was my first ebook from the library!!"

A reader from Auburn read *Einstein & Oppenheimer: the meaning of genius* by Silvan S Schweber: "The author was a professor of physics and historian whose writing style was heavily leadened with sentences which required an OED to decipher, making reading not too pleasurable to a lay person. The journalistic equivalent of splitting atoms for someone who flunked chemistry. The properties of light were missing from this book."

A reader from East Taunton read *Truckers* by Terry Pratchette: "I like this book because of the humor through out the book."

A reader from West Yarmouth read *A Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese: "A wonderful story. Several story lines that intertwine nicely. I could not put it down wondering how they would come together."

A reader from Lowell read *The Stand* by Stephen King: "Read so many King novels in my teens but, never *The Stand*. Reading this post-pandemic was something! Could I have picked a longer book to read this month? ;)."

A reader from STOUGHTON read *Rivals* by Katharine McGee: "A great third book in this series!"

A reader from Lynnfield read *The Leopard* by Jo Nesbo: "Good mystery/thriller. Not as dark as some other books in the Nordic noir genre, but still violent/grisly in parts. Part of a series of books that I will continue reading, enjoyed the characters and plotting."

A reader from Worcester read *Carrie Soto is Back* by Taylor Jenkins Reid: "I LOVE tennis so I really enjoyed the progression through the tour and the slams. I also appreciated the characters."

A reader from Melrose read *King: A Life* by Jonathan Eig: "An excellent bio of MLK...warts and all!"

A reader from WAKEFIELD read *Daddy Diaries* by Andy Cohen: "Very funny and identifiable."

A reader from Attleboro read *You're Not Supposed to Die Tonight* by Kalyann Bayron: "A suspenseful YA read that uses the current trope of being a 'final girl.'" Good overall until there are some (unfair) plot turns that are very unbelievable. The epilogue, however, is fantastic and fair."

A reader from MENDON read *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer: "Thoughtful essays from an Indigenous writer who is also a scientist, reflecting on her relationship with plants, and their importance to her cultural identity. Much food for thought."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *The Lost Apothecary* by Sarah Penner: "The idea of this is fascinating, mixing two different periods of time and the struggles of women at periods of time."

A reader from Scituate read *The Emotional Lives of Teenagers* by Lisa Damour: "I found this book incredible helpful and practical. I would recommend it to any parent with a 10 year old and beyond. I have been able to immediately apply what the author suggested in the book to raise more compassionate and emotionally connected humans."

A reader from Norwell read *Mrs Nash's Ashes* by Sarah Adler: "Lovely rom-com about a young woman coming to terms with the death of her friend."

A reader from Plymouth read *The Body: A Guide to Occupants* by Bill Bryson: "Just as Bill Bryson has written great books about exploring geography, this one turns his gaze towards the geography and function of the human body. It was a quick and entertaining read and I learned a lot!"

A reader from Melrose read *The Christie Affair* by Nina de Gramont: "I loved this book! It was a fast-paced easy read with several twists and turns. Perfect summer reading!"

A reader from Salem read *Today Will Be Different* by Maria Semple: "Good read! I like Maria Semple's characters."

A reader from Beverly read *City of Girls* by Elizabeth Gilbert: "New York glamour and grit."

A reader from East Taunton read *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt: "One of my favorite books of the year. Tova and Marcellus forever."

A reader from Amherst read *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus: "I really enjoyed the novel. Witty and touching with a refreshing feminist point of view."

A reader from Salem read *The Queen* by Andrew Morton: "I learned many new things about Queen Elizabeth II, including about her life during World War II and her time before she was queen. It was fascinating."

A reader from Melrose read *Marrying the Ketchups* by Jennifer Close: "Marrying the Ketchups is a delightful novel about a multi-generational dysfunctional family. Enjoyable."

A reader from Northborough read *These is my Words: The Diary of Sarah Agnes Prine, 1881-1901* by Nancy Turner: "Nice fictional portrayal of a frontier woman, just dragged on a little too long in parts."

A reader from Worcester read *My Antonia* by Willa Cather: "Absolutely loved this book. I felt I was there in Nebraska at the turn of the century ... though I wouldn't have been there because I wouldn't have had the courage to go to an unknown place!"

A reader from Groveland read *Things we never got over* by Lucy Score: "Kind of a fun light read, very predictable."

A reader from North Reading read *Book Lovers* by Emily Henry: "The lengthy wait for this e-book from my library coincided perfectly with the July challenge! This was my favorite Emily Henry I've read so far; quaint small town romance, literary industry, just A+ all around for me!"

A reader from Sutton read *Brothers: a memoir of love, loss, and race* by Nico Slate: "Interesting perspective and look back at a childhood with a mixed race older brother in a white family and how he learned his brothers experience more as he grew even after his brothers untimely death."

A reader from Beverly read *November 9* by Colleen Hoover: "Light beach read!"

A reader from South Pasadena read *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* by Edward Albee: "This play was a rollercoaster, and definitely required more re-reading and deep critical analysis than I expected, but upon thinking about it more clearly, the true themes of self-understanding, family, and human fault shine through beautifully and masterfully."

A reader from Erving read *The New Encyclopedia of Daylilies* by Ted L Petit & John P Peat: "Love it & take it out from the library every year during daylily season to ID my plants & read up on the history surrounding the daylilies. It's a favorite of mine."

A reader from Andover read *So Shall You Reap* by Donna Leon: "The last published GUIDO Brunetti mystery set in Venice (and I hope more to come!) interweaves Italy/Venice and social justice issues (the environment, climate change) with a compelling murder mystery. Beautifully written (as always!) and plotted."

A reader from Greenfield read *You made a fool of death with your beauty* by Akwaeke Emezi: "This book was beautifully heartrending and the prose was so rich."

A reader from Hampden read *Breakfast at Tiffany's* by Truman Capote: "It was great to finally read the book! It was alot different from the movie. Truman Capote is an excellent writer. I loved it!"

A reader from Greenfield read *Monstress* by Marjorie Liu: "New graphic novel series, need to read a few more volumes to decide if I like it."

A reader from TEWKSBURY read *Fairy Tale* by Stephen King: "Great tale of adventure and fantasy."

A reader from Essex read *This Body I Wore* by Diana Goetsche: "Bold and brave memoir by a transsexual woman."

A reader from Middleborough read *Baby Teeth* by Zoe Stage: "This book was so intriguing, I did not want to stop reading."

A reader from Lowell read *Boyfriend Material* by Alexis Hall: "It was a fun read. It was fun, chaotic, and great to read while on the beach."

A reader from East Sandwich read *Maame* by Jessica George: "An incredibly thoughtful, funny, and well-written look into being in your early twenties and balancing your life and the expectations of your family."

A reader from S. Weymouth read *Weyward* by Emilia Hart: "I loved this book. I downloaded it as an audio book borrowed from my local library and loved it so much I ended up purchasing a hard copy. Impossible to put down!"

A reader from Malden read *The Talk* by Darrin Bell: "A memoir of a black man growing up in the United States."

A reader from Sutton read *Midwife of Auschwitz* by Anna Stuart: "Tough but important read."

A reader from Sandwich read *The last chairlift* by John Irving: "It was dreadful."

A reader from Sandwich read *The invisible life of Addie LaRue* by VE Schwab: "interesting premise."

A reader from Chestnut hill read *The Guest* by Emma Cline: "Unique style of writing and it kept me wanting to read more."

A reader from Woods Hole read *Speaking American* by Josh Katz: "Subtitle*How Y'all, Youse, and You Guys Talk A Visual Guide. This is a great book that shows on a map and explains the different words for the same thing and pronunciation changes across the US. Enjoyed by the entire family."

A reader from Florence read *A Spear Cuts Through Water* by Simon Jimenez: "A beautiful & unusual fantasy story told in a dream theater!"

A reader from Barnstable read *The Impossible Us* by Sarah Lotz: "Romance, comedy, thriller set in parallel universes. Even knowing how it would probably end I was still holding my breath and it brought tears to my eyes. 5 stars! It makes a fabulous audiobook!"

A reader from Carver read *Girls in the Stilt House* by Kelly Mustian: "It was an excellent book about living down south in the late 1920s. Reminiscent of *Where the Crawdads...* but I liked it better!"

A reader from Belchertown read *We Were Strangers Once* by Betsy Carter: "The genre is historical novel - actual historical events but fictitious characters. The Nazi Party is gaining ground in Germany and the Jewish population is emigrating to countries hospitable to them/their plight. Set in New York City, the characters learn the "American ways" while trying to keep some semblance of their identities prior to leaving Germany. With everything so different, their struggles are real and along the way friendships and loves are formed. Good read - a page turner."

A reader from Belchertown read *Cooking with Italian Grandmothers* by Jessica Theoroux: "Amazing recipes from amazing women."

A reader from Easthampton read *All the Beauty in the World: The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Me* by Patrick Bringley: "A beautiful, quiet meditation on art, grief, and growing into adulthood."

A reader from Basking Ridge read *The Last Flight* by Julie Clark: "it was just ok"

A reader from Topsfield read *A Renaissance of Our Own* by Rachel Cargle: "I've been following Cargle's work for a few years and she doesn't disappoint."

A reader from Bourne read *Camera Girl* by Carl Sferrazza Anthony: "Really interesting to hear Jackie Kennedy's early years."

A reader from South Hadley read *Greenwood* by Michael Christie: "An eco-parable that resonates loudly with our current climate reality. An intricate exploration of what constitutes family."

A reader from Boxford read *Pack Up The Moon* by Kristan Higgins: "Wonderful story that causes you to appreciate life."

A reader from Erving read *The Last Camillia* by Sarah Jio: "Intriguing mystery with two timelines, overlapping plot and rare/stolen FLOWERS!"

A reader from Hamilton read *Crying in H-Mart* by Michelle Zauner: "Really enjoyed this one. Felt very personal and was well written."

A reader from MARSTONS MILLS read *Happy Place* by Emily Henry: "A group of friends that's gotten together every year in Maine gets together for their yearly visit. Each couple has their own baggage and secrets to get through before they can bring their group friendship from holding onto the past to embracing the future."

A reader from Weymouth read *The Hollow of Fear* by Sherry Thomas: "I enjoy Sherlock Holmes and especially enjoy books that are inspired by this character. This book is one of a series that has the protagonist, a woman named Charlotte Holmes, posing as a male detective, ie, Sherlock Holmes. There's even a Mrs. Watson who is her helpful companion in the undertaking of solving crimes."

A reader from Amherst read *Ms. Marvel Vol 2: Generation Why* by G. Willow Wilson: "Kamala Khan is such a fun, engaging and adorkable superhero. This graphic novel is illustrated by Adrian Alphona and Jacob Wyatt."

A reader from Naples read *Someone Else's Shoes* by Jojo Moyes: "I don't usually read JoJo Moyes.....used it as a palate cleanser. It did the trick. Truth be told, I could not walk across a room in those red 6 inch heels - Christian Louboutin or not."

A reader from Attleboro read *This Is How It Always Is* by Frankel: "This book takes on the actions and emotions families with a transgender child deal with personally and in society. Honest and comprehensive information about the struggles and the impact make this a heart wrenching story, leaving one to wonder what decisions they would make - or have made - in similar circumstances."

A reader from Salem read *Seating arrangements* by Maggie shipstead: "I preferred her other books."

A reader from Brighton read *The First Bright Thing* by J.R Dawson: "This was a great read featuring found family taking on hard things. Read this if you liked the Night Circus and Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children; if you have experienced abuse, please proceed carefully as the scenes featuring abuse and the aftermath can be hard to read."

A reader from Hartland read *The moon is a harsh mistress* by Robert Heinlein: "Witty. I enjoyed the literary and cultural references. It was sexist, but not misogynistic."

A reader from Saugus read *A Court of Wings and Ruin* by Sarah J. Maas: "I absolutely love this whole series. The fantasy aspect and the action really keep you hooked and turning the pages."

A reader from Lynnfield read *Same Time Next Summer* by Annabel Monaghan: “This was a beach read in every sense: it kept my interest while still feeling light and breezy, and it's literally set on the beach in Long Island.”

A reader from Harrisburg read *How to Stop Time* by Matt Haig: “So far, I'm not a fan of Matt Haig's work and I really didn't enjoy this but people keep recommending the Midnight Library so perhaps I'll have to try that and see...”

A reader from Wilmington read *The Jungle Book (Books of Wonder)* by Rudyard Kipling: “like most people, I am familiar with the jungle book through Disney's animated film and many other media. I also know they are all based on books written by Kipling but I haven't read the source material myself. I was browsing my library one day and came across a VERY handsome hardcover illustrated edition ISBN# 9780688099794 and thought this was perfect for this month's reading. What I didn't know was 'the jungle book' is essentially an anthology loosely cobbled together by disconnected short stories to form volumes and in fact, it was separated as book 1 and book 2. Anyway, I ended up reading all the completed material for the entire jungle book series. While I appreciate the story, I always thought Kipling meant classic and literate and I didn't really get that. I've read other Victorian era literature, (Frankenstein is a great example) where the actual writing of how the words are put together was fantastic. That is not the case here and that's fine. Other than being surprised this was an anthology, I didn't feel like it was a strong material that worked as a classic or standalone stories. In some ways, I feel like these are precursors to those Jack London stories about the wildness of nature... but IMHO London did it better, especially Kipling's stories about the Arctic short story. I wouldn't say that I was disappointed, but in my imagination, this "classic" story had swelled up and hyped up to a level that I don't think any story would be able to surpass. Sometimes reading classics is right on the nose, sometimes it surpasses, but very rarely is it not what I thought it was. This title belonged to such a category of, "I thought it was A, but it was actually B". I am still glad that I was able to read it and form my opinions.”

A reader from Boxford read *Siblings Without Rivalry* by Adele Faber & Elaine Mazlish: “This was a very practical and helpful guide for how to better handle dynamics with my kids.”

A reader from Falmouth read *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks: “Wow! What an incredible read. As always, she writes beautifully with fully developed complex characters.”

A reader from Hamilton read *Ask Again, Yes* by Mary Beth Keane: “Love the main character Kate! Great characters.”

A reader from Scituate read *Bullseye* by James Patterson: “Summer reading! Catching up on the series was fun.”

A reader from Salem read *Serotonin* by Michel Houellebecq: “This book is not for everyone, nor is this author. This is an incredibly sobering and depressing book about failure and experiencing an unbearable reality. The main character eventually commits suicide, but the book first focuses on the narrator's life experiences and regrets. Luck and circumstance are also very interesting themes that complexly weave themselves into the story. This book has no silver linings, it is just sad and depressing, it is a feeling of a terrible reality one must live with. There is a hopelessness to the book that I found very intriguing and almost enjoyable. I deeply enjoy existential works, this book reminded me of the author Cioran. I believe

this book would be interesting to anyone who has ever struggled with depression and loneliness. Just a very unusual book that I would recommend deep thinkers give a chance.”

A reader from South Yarmouth read *A Time to Kill* by John Grisham: “Kept me engaged till the end.”

A reader from Seekonk read *Commitment* by Mona Simpson: “I loved the humanity and compassion in the author’s depiction of the characters’ struggle to remain a family.”

A reader from Holbrook read *Between Two Kingdoms: A memoir of a Life Interrupted* by Suleika Jaouad: “This is a book worth reading. The author diagnosed with leukemia at 22 years old takes the reader on a journey through her treatment and remission. She is tremendous writer!”

A reader from Conroe read *In Order to Live: A North Korean Girl's Journey to Freedom* by Yeomni Park: “I was saddened by her experiences but fascinated by a first person account of what life in North Korea is like.”

A reader from Braintree read *The Host* by Stephanie Meyer: “The book was so much better than the movie. A fun captivating read.”

A reader from Niantic read *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt: “Enjoyed hearing the voice of an octopus and learned some things I didn't know about them. And loved that story took place in Puget sound area of Washington state and learned some things about that as well.”

A reader from Malden read *Fight of the Century* by Mihael Chabon and Ayelet Waldman: “Nice vignettes about various court cases that focus on the Bill of Rights.”

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Death of a Knit Wit* by Peggy Ehrhart: “Fun read, interesting plot.”

A reader from Atkinson read *Paris: The Memoir* by Paris Hilton: “I loved this honest bio from Paris Hilton. A lot of the book focuses on the trauma she carries from being forced to attend a school for troubled teens and how she now advocates against these facilities.”

A reader from Hanson read *The House Is On Fire* by Rachel Beanland: “If you enjoy historical fiction but want to read something set in America, this was a very good read. Enjoyed the characters - never knew about this fire!”

A reader from Salem read *Kiss Me in the Coral Lounge* by Helen Ellis: “Delightful! Ellis's personal essays are funny and savvy and fill a publishing niche that is often marked by its paucity: books about happy lives. It's just what I needed this year.”

A reader from Plymouth read *The Plot* by Jean Hang Korelitz: “Great twists and turns!”

A reader from Woods Hole read *The Short Reign of Pippin IV - a Fabrication* by John Steinbeck: “Worth reading if you are a fan of any of the Pippin stories: the musical version directed by Bob Fosse in the 1970's; a 2023 book: *Magic to Do* by Elysa Gardner and any historical/fictional books you may find.”

A reader from Middleboro read *From a Buick 8* by Stephen King: “I enjoyed the perspective from the state police detectives in Pennsylvania. I particularly like that the perspective kept changing.”

A reader from Belchertown read *Exiles* by Jane Harper: “I loved the location and thought it was a very good mystery.”

A reader from Dracut read *The boys from biloxi* by John Grisham: "Exciting legal novel."

A reader from Beverly read *The Extraordinaries* by TJ Klune: "It was a bit of a slow start but once I got into it, I found it a very enjoyable read. A good story about when teenage angst mixes with superpowers."

A reader from Franklin read *How to Human* by Carlos Whittaker: "This book was wonderful! In a time when the political divide is huge, this book should be required reading for all. While it references Jesus significantly, being non-religious I still found the premise of the book food for my soul. Wonderful storytelling and sound advice for all."

A reader from Sandwich read *Golden Girl* by Elin Hilderbrand: "This was my first Elin Hilderbrand book. I thought it was going to be an easy, fluffy beach read. It was deeper and more emotional than I was expecting, but all around a good read."

A reader from Swampscott read *Love at First Set* by Jennifer Dugan: "Such a fun light beach read. Perfect for vacation."

A reader from Wakefield read *The Collected Regrets of Clover* by Mikki Brammer: "Loved the book, poignant remarks of death and dying with a sprinkle of romance."

A reader from Lynnfield read *The Art of Clean Code* by Christian Mayer: "Great book, highly recommend for any software engineers!"

A reader from Boston read *Chain-Gang All-Stars* by Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah: "I had high hopes for this book based on the author's debut story collection, *Friday Black*. It exceeded them!"

A reader from Rockland read *A Very Typical Family* by Sierra Godfrey: "Lots of family issues in this book and a convoluted journey to the conclusion did not make this a favorite of mine."

A reader from Waltham read *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* by Philip K. Dick: "Engaging, creative, and at times just off the wall weird. In certain ways it feels like a thematic/emotional cousin of *ROADSIDE PICNIC* by the Strugatsky brothers (though the books have very different plots/animating concepts)."

A reader from Dedham read *Before the Flood* by Elisabeth C. Rosenberg: "Wonderful book detailing how the four towns in the Swift River Valley were destroyed to make room for the Quabbin Reservoir. Enfield, Dana, Greenwich and Prescott were literally drowned to provide water for Boston!"

A reader from Middleboro read *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus: "Not my favorite. The message is worthy, but it was lost in the characters and delivery."

A reader from Haverhill read *Forever Odd* by Dean Koontz: "The first book in this series was better. I want to love Odd Thomas, but he hasn't fully captured my attention so far."

A reader from Wendell read *The Foundling* by Ann Leary: "Interesting look into the past and what happened to children without families."

A reader from Wakefield read *Pineapple Street* by Jenny Jackson: "This was a quick, light read -- which made it a great summer book for me. I was excited when I walked into my library and saw this available on the "new book" display table."

A reader from Lynnfield read *Wrong Place Wrong Time* by Gillian McAllister: "A mother travels back in time to prevent a crime in her family. Personally I thought there were too many characters and didn't love the time travel. But I will give author kudos for creativity in this one."

A reader from Gill read *Yonder* by Ali Standish: "I chose this book as it is on the Vermont Golden Dome list, a list from which I try to read all the nominees. I found the book at the Erving Library."

A reader from Manchester read *The reading list* by Sara Nisha Adams: "I loved the characters. It was cool how the author wove different stories together."

A reader from Reading read *Why Fathers Cry at Night* by Kwame Alexander: "Why Father's Cry at Night is a beautiful, uniquely-structured memoir, detailing different stages of Kwame Alexander's life as a child, son, grandbaby, student, friend, lover, husband, father, and writer. Alexander uses combination of love poems, recipes from his grandmother's kitchen, and essays to explore his successes, failures, desires, and tender moments in each of these stages of life. As a reader, I could feel the love on each and every page."

A reader from Beverly read *Hallowed Ground - A Walk at Gettysburg* by James McPherson: "The National Park at Gettysburg attracts millions of visitors, who would find an able companion in this small book that recounts the events of July 1-3, 1863. McPherson also tells us of Lincoln's address that advised the nation to be rededicated to the promise of equality and to a new birth of freedom. What happened at Gettysburg still matters. McPherson helps us understand why."

A reader from Beverly read *Big Sky* by Kate Atkinson: "I didn't love how many storylines were threaded but they all came together nicely! It's the fifth book in a series about a curmudgeonly detective named Jackson Brodie."

A reader from Amherst read *Mama* by Jessica George: "Read as part of our library book club. Nice story about a young woman's struggle with grief and identity. Wraps up a bit too neatly at the end, but overall I like it!"

A reader from North Weymouth read *The Surgeon's Daughter* by Audrey Blake: "I didn't enjoy the book, but, as with any book, I learned from it."

A reader from Gloucester read *Open* by Andre Agassi: "Decided to read this after reading Moehringer's *The Tender Bar* and his collaboration with Prince Harry (Spare). I'm not a sports fan and know very little about tennis, but *Open* held me to the very end. Agassi's story, his internal dialogs, his development, his understanding of himself in his world continue to fascinate me."

A reader from Wakefield read *Zero Days* by Ruth Ware: "Different than previous Ruth Ware books I've read. Very focused on just one character which leads to a lot of repetitive writing and scenarios. And not a very satisfying ending/mystery. The penetration testing job and related ideas were interesting."

A reader from New Bedford read *Killing Moon* by Jo Nesbo: "Great storytelling."

A reader from Beverly read *Escape from Camp 14* by Harden, Blaine: "I've wanted to understand more about North Korea so I thought this would be an interesting read. It was, but it was definitely a difficult one."

A reader from Sandwich read *Meet me at the lake* by Carly Fortune: "Not as good as the 1st book."

A reader from Hanson read *The rose code* by Kate Quinn: “Interesting insight about the art of code detection.”

A reader from Beverly read *Where Death Delights* by Bernard Knight: “More than I wanted to know about pathologists and England's legal system in the 1950s but the characters were interesting and the ending was surprising.”

A reader from Sandwich read *All the Light We Cannot See* by Antjony Doerr: “The book is a riveting account of the lives of two families in France during the occupation of France by German soldiers. The book is well-written and draws the reader in from the very first sentence to it's last!”

A reader from Fall River read *The Lost* by Natasha Preston: “An intense page turner! Best book of the year!”

A reader from Hampden read *Loyalty* by Lisa Scottoline: “Lisa Scottoline's latest book. Good story about the Sicilian mafia in early Italy. Liked very much as I do all her other books...”

A reader from Methuen read *first ladies* by Marie Benedict.: “Terrific historical fiction! Learned much about the behind the scenes collaboration of two remarkable women.”

A reader from Seekonk read *The Lady from Burma* by Alison Montclair: “It was a complex historical fiction mystery books that had several different plots going on at the same time. It's the latest in a a good series.”

A reader from Plymouth read *Other Voices, Other Rooms* by Truman Capote: “Truman Capote could really write a sentence! He evoked amazing atmosphere in this Southern gothic novel.”

A reader from Woods hole read *The Mitford siders* by Marie Benedict: “Well written and well researched. Very clear development of different political styles.”

A reader from Brewster read *Lessons In Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus: “Interesting story about a young, strong, independent chemist who's a women who becomes the host of a cooking show.”

A reader from Wilmington read *All the Lost Places* by Amanda Dykes: “Not a huge fan of this book.”

A reader from Shrewsbury read *The Secret Pearl* by Mary Balogh: “Good historical fiction.”

A reader from East Falmouth read *The Spectacular* by Fiona Davis: “Loved this historical fiction book written about a place that I love.”

A reader from Chester read *Consigned to Death* by Jane K. Cleland: “Good first book in a series. I did not care for the protagonist.”

A reader from Lunenburg read *Grass Roots* by Stuart Woods: “I've read the Stone Barrington books and I'm enjoying reading the back story of some of the secondary characters.”

A reader from Lunenburg read *Late Migration* by Margaret Renkl: “Beautiful, observant writing often focused on nature. Short entries made for enjoyable, quick, and satisfying reading — PERFECT for Summertime!”

A reader from Reading read *SHAME* by Dr. Taslima Nasrin: "SHAME is an excellent novel about the sad plight of a family belonging to a minority community in Bangladesh. The author, Dr. Taslima Nasreen had to flee her country after she wrote this book, facing death threats from religious fanatics."

A reader from Plymouth read *Iron widow* by Xiram Jay Zhao: "This is so wonderfully unhinged! If you support women's wrongs read this book!"

A reader from Springfield read *How to Walk* by Thich Nhat Hanh: "This famous Buddhist monk and author presents methods of taking simple walks while using mindfulness techniques. This is a small book which contains many interesting ideas and observations."

A reader from Lowell read *Throne of glass* by Sarah j maas: "Really pretty terrible."

A reader from South Easton read *The Appeal* by Janice Hallett: "A cleverly devised mystery perfect for readers looking for something different. Sparked great book club discussion!"

A reader from Dracut read *Oona Out of Order* by Margarita Montimore: "Interesting premise/way to present Oona's life which I enjoyed. There was some parts I thought could have been left out and made the story better."

A reader from Methuen read *The Summer Skies* by Jenny Colgan: "An entertaining read, primarily set on an isolated island off the coast of Scotland with a female pilot torn between continuing her family's small business or leaving for a more glamorous position with a major airline. The setting - both on the ground and in the air - was described with such strong detail that I felt like I was a passenger aboard Dolly that landed on Inchborn."

A reader from Hop read *The Five-Star Weekend* by Elin Hilderbrand: "Great summer read."

A reader from Quincy read *Universal Harvester* by John Darnielle: "A librarian from the Thomas Crane Public Library picked this out for me as part of their book match program. I'm so glad this book was chosen for me; I really enjoyed it, and likely never would have picked it out myself!"

A reader from Belchertown read *Grandma Gatewood's Walk* by Ben Montgomery: "A very interesting story of the first woman to through-hike the Appalachian Trail in 1955. She was a grandmother in her 60's wearing Ked sneakers and carrying minimal supplies, not even a sleeping bag. Her descriptions of her experiences helped improve the conditions along the trail for future hikers."

A reader from Reading read *A Court of Thorn and Roses* by Sarah J. Maas: "I've heard great things about this series and the first book did not disappoint! Very excited to read the second one!"

A reader from Amherst read *The Forgotten Girls* by Monica Potts: "Excellent account of the diverging paths of two young women growing up in small town Arkansas. Social forces shape lives and life decisions-one escapes to achieve her educational and professional goals and her friend does not. Potts looks at the culture, religious influences, social class differences and so on to explain how her friend had so many troubles and could not escape small town life, drugs, pregnancies, unstable relationships and poorer health."

A reader from Melrose read *Birthday Girl* by Penelope Douglas: "It seemed a lot longer than it actually was. All the characters acted juvenile; which was frustrating and annoying. The relationships were unbelievable most of the time. The author can write well; she just didn't prove it with this one."

A reader from Amherst read *The Haunted Bookshop* by Christopher Morley: "A quaint sequel to *Parnassus on Wheels*, originally published in 1919, about a bookseller. There is both mystery and romance involved, as well as a World War I theme running through the plot."

A reader from Salem read *Jungle calls* by Salem library: "It is an interesting book. The book is about how lions survive in the planet earth."

A reader from Danvers read *American Gods* by Neil Gaiman: "My first ever Neil Gaiman book, and wow! It won't be my last. So I'm late to the party. I really love his writing style - but then again MANY people do hence while all of his work is so popular!"

A reader from Yorba Linda read *The Boys From Biloxi* by John Grisham: "Classic Grisham! Learned a lot about Biloxi."

A reader from Melrose read *The deep* by Rivers Solomon: "Interesting reimagining of mermaids and community."

A reader from Reading read *This House is Mine* by Dorte Hansen: "This is a story about post WWII refugees within Germany-- people in East Prussia, mostly women and children, were forced to flee the Red Army and head west. I was about to go to Hamburg, a city I did not know, and this book gave me an idea of the areas around it and the tension between the city and its rural areas. It's a good book about complex people and what makes a family across generations."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Daisy Jones and the Six* by Taylor Jenkins Reid: "This was a fun summer read that harkened me back to my early teen years listening to Fleetwood Mac on an endless loop!"

A reader from SUTTON read *Deacon King Kong* by James McBride: "James McBride has come to be a favorite contemporary fiction writer of mine. His skill at interweaving humor with serious subject matter makes his storytelling especially captivating."

A reader from Beverly read *The Book of Charlie* by David von Drehle: "Wonderful history book about an elderly doctor and life in a much simpler time. As an educated white male he had so much freedom. But old people tend to accentuate positive and downplay negative. Many parallels to my own 90 year old dad who lost his mom at age 10."

A reader from BEVERLY read *The Babysitters Club the graphic Novel : Jessi's new language* by Ann M. Martin and Chan Chau: "I liked the book a lot, And I really enjoy the whole series as well. Jessi is a great character and I like how she does ballet constantly but still has time to babysit even a deaf kid and how willing she is to learn sign language with such a busy schedule."

A reader from East Falmouth read *The Wishing Game* by Meg Shaffer: "The power of books and the power of love collide 💕"

A reader from Lunenburg read *The Book with No Pictures* by BJ Novak: "This book made both my daughter and I giggle with delight."

A reader from Cambridge read *Andersonville Diary* by John L. Ransom: "A detailed account of survival in Georgia's notorious Andersonville prison during the Civil War. 20 years old At the time of his capture, Ransom kept a nearly daily diary during his year of captivity."

A reader from Amherst read *Adult Children of Emotionally Immature Parents* by Lindsay C. Gibson: "Phenomenal. Borrowed it from Libby as Audiobook and switched between reading and listening while I drove, it was great. Insightful, helpful, healing."

A reader from Wrentham read *Good Night Irene* by Luis Alberto Urrea: "Untold story of women Red Cross volunteers during WW2. From his mother's experiences."

A reader from Amherst read *Meg, Jo, Beth, Amy: The Story of Little Women and Why It Still Matters* by Anne Boyd Rioux: "I really enjoyed this book. It connected Little Women and Louisa May Alcott to today's women and girls. By doing this, she showed how women in the nineteenth century suffered from patriarchy and still do."

A reader from Weymouth read *Drama Free: A Guide to Managing Unhealthy Family Relationships* by Nedra Glover Tawwab: "This book is written by bestselling author and social worker Nedra Glover Tawwab and outlines how to change your reactions to difficult people in your life, recognizing that you cannot change those people's behavior. I found her mix of real life examples and Q&A prompts helpful in applying her strategies to people in my own life."

A reader from Haverhill read *One of Us Is Dead* by Jeneva Rose: "Honestly, not a favorite. For a mystery, suspense it was kind of boring. Would not recommend."

A reader from Centerville read *The snail* by Emily Hughes: "Beautifully illustrated story of American Japanese artist Isamu Noguchi. It is targeted to 5-8 year old children but I'm a huge fan of illustrations in kids books and we visit our local library with my daughter on a regular basis. It was a treasure to find this position on the shelf. I recommend it to all ages."

A reader from Melrose read *Joan is Okay* by Weike Wang: "Meh. The main character seemed like a portrait of depression or autism-spectrum, or both. Appreciated the insight into medical life and an aspect of Asian immigrant experience. Some of the secondary characters were well-drawn and interesting."

A reader from Beverly read *Fairy Tale* by Stephen King: "This is the best Stephen King novel in at least a decade, maybe two. Beautifully written, more fantasy than horror. I decided to peruse the "new books" section and just grab something intriguing, and despite my initial "oh, another King book" reaction, this was a pleasant surprise."

A reader from Elkins read *Siddhartha* by Hermann Hesse: "I appreciated the simple clarity of the writing but found the main character insufferable."

A reader from Amherst read *The Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki: "It was an interesting interaction between what it means to be a reader."

A reader from Northampton read *Lovely War* by Julie Berry: "I was skeptical about the premise of this book but it turned out to be so, so good! Brilliantly written. I cried, I laughed."

A reader from Hudson read *The warmth of other suns* by Isabel Wilkerson: "Wonderfully narratively written, and a difficult but important read."

A reader from Salem read *The 5 Star Weekend* by Elin Hildebrand: "The 5 star weekend was a great summer read! It transported me to Nantucket while on the train to work."

A reader from Bolton read *designing your life* by bill burnett: "Really helpful frameworks and mentality of how to make your life more fulfilling without radical change."

A reader from South Dennis read *Thank you for your servitude* by Mike Liebovich: "Funny but sad because it's true."

A reader from CHICOPEE read *The Last One Left* by Riley Sager: "I really liked and highly recommend this book because it kept me guessing throughout the whole book. It is filled with twists and turns, mystery, suspense and some chilling descriptions. This is one book I didn't want to put down especially because the ending really threw me off guard."

A reader from Melrose read *Pieces of Blue: A Novel* by Holly Goldberg Sloan: "A fun summer read!"

A reader from Somerville read *The Light Pirate* by Lily Brooks-Dalton: "Most of my books come from the library, but this was my favorite this month. Wanda is named after the devastating storm during which she was born, and grows up in a Florida that is rapidly losing its fight with climate change. Atmospheric, riveting - I won't forget about this one anytime soon."

A reader from Melrose read *Marrying the Ketchups* by Jennifer Close: "Setting is post-2016 election, which was clearly very upsetting to Jennifer Close. This could've been marginally entertaining escape fiction had she not hammered home her hatred of Trump and Republicans in chapter after chapter. It detracts from the story and makes the novel feel dated."

A reader from Harwich read *Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese: "Amazing storytelling but such a sad book and too many individuals die. I stuck with it because he writes so beautifully."

A reader from Buzzards Bay read *Where The Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens: "Super easy read. Story was great. I picked the murder right away! Enjoyed this easy one!"

A reader from Framingham read *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee: "This was a really incredible, intricate story that managed to make four generations of a family feel very personal. I appreciated how global events were very much an influence on what was happening, and yet Min Jin Lee showed that on a daily level, it didn't matter what was happening in politics when kids needed to be fed and bills needed to be paid."

A reader from Hopkinton read *Risen* by Benedict Jacka: "This book was the completion of a series that I read. It was very well done. Often series completion books (like TV) are out of balance with compromises to bring everything to conclusion. That was not the case with this book. It was a fair and honest end to the various plot lines in the series."

A reader from Hatfield read *A Band of Sisters* by Laurel Willig: "Makes me proud to be a Smithie!"

A reader from Beverly read *Hot and Bothered: What No One Tells You about Menopause* by Jancee Dunn: "I thought it was totally validating and informative!"

A reader from Bourne read *How To Find Your Way in the Dark* by Derek B Miller: "This is the second book that I have read by this author. It was very interesting to look at history behind the fiction. I liked it and everyone in my book club enjoyed it also."

A reader from Arlington read *The Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese: "Verghese transports the reader in this novel and the 700 plus pages go by quickly."

A reader from Attleboro read *The Child Thief* by Brom: "A fantastical horror retelling of the boy who never grew up, Peter Pan. Brom's writing is vivid and emotive; *The Child Thief* redefines Peter, unveiling his grim intent upon the young boys of Avalon."

A reader from Cambridge read *A Gift of Presence: The Theology and Poetry of the Eucharist in Thomas Aquinas* by Jan-Heiner Tück: "I've been chipping away at this book for what feels like years now. An academic monograph far too expensive to own, but nevertheless a wealth of insight into Thomas Aquinas's Eucharistic poetry, i.e., hymns for the personal devotion and the feast of Corpus Christi. A refreshing take on the common doctor / arch-scholastic theologian!"

A reader from Barnstable read *River of the Gods* by Candace Millard: "Headed to Egypt next year and fascinating to read about the expeditions searching for the source of The Nile, specifically The White Nile. The passion, courage and strength of these expeditions in light of incredible challenges is inspirational."

A reader from Milford read *Dust Child* by Nguyễn Phan Quế Mai: "is it possible to live honestly in war? to do that, and survive? The suffering of and because of the Việt Nam War extend beyond what I had ever considered. It created and destroyed families in one swoop, with lies built upon racism and inhumanity, with norms ruling over compassion even as they were broken and ignored in so many unseen ways. The mistakes of the past may not be able to be amended. America's role in the Việt Nam War and the consequences for all of people, even if fully understood by the public, are woven into so many as suffering that there is nothing we can do but understand and choose compassion this time."

A reader from Melrose read *Among the Shadows* by Bruce R Coffin: "Clever police procedural."

A reader from Worcester read *Where the lost Wander* by Amy Harmon: "I found this book very entertaining. Set in 1853 about life on the Overland Trail in a wagon train. Good Read."

A reader from YARMOUTH PORT read *The Lie Maker* by Linwood Barclay: "This is a good thriller with an unexpected twist near the end."

A reader from Baldwinville read *Pandora's Jar: Women in the Greek Myths* by Natalie Haynes: "I loved this collection of essays about the women of Greek mythology and the ancient stories that centered them much more than many of our modern-day interpretations."

A reader from METHUEN read *THE OLD LION* by JEFF SHAARA: "ALL OF HIS BOOKS ARE EXCELLENT TO READ."

A reader from Gill read *At Swim, Two Boys* by Jamie O'Neill: "This is one of the best books that I have read this year. It lets the reader see not only into a historical moment, but also into the inner lives of multiple characters, with depth and complexity. I hope it will remain in my library's collection and I can read it again in a few years."

A reader from Erving read *Book Lovers* by Emily Henry: "The book was recommended by someone in a FB group I'm in. It's a light, feel-good romance, though it does have some serious elements as the protagonist works out some long-standing emotional issues revolving around her mother and her sister."

A reader from Brookline read *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus: "This is one of the wittiest most enjoyable books I've read this year!"

A reader from Lowell read *Red Team Blues* by Cory Doctorow: "I have read Doctorow's newsletter for a while but never his fiction. One of the great things about borrowing from the library is the chance to read new authors and genres for free. I was drawn by the cryptocurrency aspect of the plot but parts of the narrative left me wanting more. If it was a short book that could've benefitted from either a huge content cut to turn it into a novella, or a few more chapters to fully flesh out the story."

A reader from Beverly read *Pathfinders* by Felipe Fernandez-Armesto: "It's a comprehensive history of humankind's exploring of this planet earth. It is a tome and not for the casual reader."

A reader from Springfield read *Lord of Scoundrels* by Loretta Chase: "Happy to finally pick up this romance novel after hearing it mentioned so often. It's an engaging and steamy romance with a hero who can't handle his emotions and an emotionally intelligent heroine who isn't afraid to use a pistol if necessary."

A reader from Pembroke read *Imposter Syndrome* by Mishell Baker: "It's the third in a series, and sadly seems to be the last one. I've loved this series and will be looking for read-alikes very soon."

A reader from Weymouth read *The Unbreakables* by Lisa Barr: "Loved it!"

A reader from Florence read *Good Omens: The Nice and Accurate Prophecies of Agnes Nutter, Witch* by Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman: "This book made me laugh out loud more than once! Hilarious take on Armageddon."

A reader from Fitchburg read *The Only Purple House in Town* by Ann Aguirre: "The story of a group of people who don't seem to fit in, but find themselves brought together and grow into the family they all wanted. An interesting take on being different and finding happiness."

A reader from Worcester read *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan: "What a powerful and gorgeous book. I fell completely into the generational grandmother-mother-daughter storytelling and themes in this book and feel even that it was healing, as someone whose mother and grandmother died before deeper and more mature bonds were ever able to form."

A reader from Chicopee read *The Last One Left* by Riley Sager: "This was by far one of the best thrillers suspense novels I've read in a while. It was full of so many twists and turns and it kept me guessing until the very end. I highly recommend this book. I give it 4.5 stars."

A reader from Bolton read *The Local* by Joey Hartstone: "An intriguing legal mystery with a surprise twist."

A reader from Weston read *Beagles* by Stephanie Finne: "I learned that the beagle dog breed used to be and still is a hunting dog. Also they shed a little."

A reader from Sutton read *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver: "Heavy and beautifully written. This is a book that will stay with me for a long time."

A reader from Dracut read *The Inmate* by Freida McFadden: "I enjoyed this psychological thriller because it had lots of twists and turns."

A reader from Weston read *Big Nate in a Class by Himself* by Lincoln Peirce: "The book was mostly about Nate going through 6th grade and he encounters problems such as going to detention lots of times."

A reader from Northfield read *John Henry Days* by Colson Whitehead: "The Ballad of John Henry was a staple in my experience of music in elementary school. My teacher also gave us context, including the murkiness of the origin story, the slippery slope of attribution, the panoramic lens of profit/loss, man/machine, white wealth/black labor and all encompassing ethical dilemmas. Taking that targeted topical journey again as an adult was enjoyably thought provoking. Also, I had to look up words and/or check into uses not numbered 1 or 2. I love when that happens."

A reader from Burlington read *Good Night, Irene* by Luis Alberto Urrea: "This book drew me in and evoked a lot of emotions, without being overly dramatic."

A reader from Franklin read *The Last Party* by Clare Mackintosh: "I enjoyed this book. It was a good mystery, fairly elaborate (though sometimes hard to keep all the characters straight) with themes and an ending that was unexpectedly deep for a thriller."

A reader from Brookline read *Tracers in the dark* by Andy Greenberg: "A true-crime book demonstrating that even the supposedly anonymous blockchain-bitcoin type transactions can be tracked when they are used for illegal purposes."

A reader from Andover read *Watch us Shine* by Marisa de los Santos: "a beautiful poetic story about love and family. Loved the play with words."

A reader from SANDWICH read *Detransition, Baby* by Torrey Peters: "Excellent story, from a perspective that needs to be heard. Well-written and fast paced, raw and emotional and complicated and all the good things that make for great book group conversation!"

A reader from Scituate read *Simon Sort of Says* by Erin Bow: "An engaging story for middle grade readers that tackles life in the wake of a traumatic event for the young protagonist."

A reader from Belchertown read *The Assassin's Blafe* by Sarah J Maas: "This is the 2nd time I have read this series..I am trying to get all the books finished this summer. If you haven't read it yet, I highly encourage you to give it a try."

A reader from Shutesbury read *Book of longing* by Leonard Cohen: "I enjoyed this book of poetry from singer/ songwriter/ author Leonard Cohen. I thought it offered the breadth of Leonard Cohen and his long career of writing."

A reader from Northfield read *the terminal list* by jack carr: "i watched the series that this book was based on so i had high hopes. its now aug4 and i started reading this july 2. i could not get into it. very boring. so slow. was very disappointed."

A reader from Syracuse read *No Matter The Wreckage* by Sarah Kay: "This is an amazing book of poetry. I have read these poems before, but I loved looking at the illustrations. I never get bored of Sarah Kay's poetry."

A reader from Burlington read *Paris Daillencourt is About to Crumble* by Alexis Hall: "The main character was frustrating at times, but this novel based around a British Bake Off type show really won me over in the end."

A reader from South Hamilton read *Abide With Me* by Elizabeth Strout: "A bleak story of mental health and community in a small town in the late 1950s. Have we changed so very much today?"

A reader from Allston read *House of Cotton* by Monica Brashears: “Unlike anything I’ve ever read. The book leaves some business unfinished, but it does a great job at sharing longing, haunting, love and tragedy.”

A reader from READING read *Cloud Cuckoo Land* by Anthony Doerr: “My perfect kind of book! All the characters were interesting, their stories so creative, couldn't put it down!!”

A reader from Scituate read *Silent Patient* by Alex Michaelides: “WOW. I thought it was going to be a murder mystery. It was like the Movie Inception with so many twists unbelievable. Loved it!”

A reader from Chicopee read *The First Ladies* by Marie Benedict, Victoria Christopher Murray: “This book of historical fiction focuses on the work of Eleanor Roosevelt and Mary Bethune and their work equal rights. While I am familiar with Eleanor Roosevelt's work, I was introduced to Mary Bethune and her contributions to dealing with racism and prejudice.”

A reader from Salem read *The Book Of Hope* by Jane Goodall and Douglas Abrams: “Inspirational and profound! The audiobook was exceptional and listening to Jane herself was a real treat.”

A reader from Wilmington read *The White Lady* by Jacqueline Winspear: “Interesting story of both world wars in England and Belgium.”

A reader from Reading read *Still Life* by Louise Penny: “My first from this author. A little folksy for me but I was engaged in the mystery.”

A reader from Woburn read *Cassandra in Reverse* by Holly Smale: “I could not put *Cassandra in Reverse* down. *Cassandra* is so genuine and unapologetic. I loved her and everything Holly Smale was going for with this book!”

A reader from Reading read *Broken Harbor* by Tana French: “Tana French never lets me down. Her tortured characters, plot twists, and psychological tension fill every page.”

A reader from Franklin read *The Invisible Husband of Frick Island* by Colleen Oakley: “This was a fun and quick read with a bit of mystery and romance, commentary on grief, and develops a true sense of place.”

A reader from Wellfleet read *The Waste Land: A Biography of a poem* by Matthew Hollis: “The book includes great historical context during the time T.S.Eliot wrote his great poem. It also makes clear the collaborative relationship between Ezra Pound and TSE in its creation, giving specific lines and examples.”

A reader from Boston read *Mad Homey* by Jodi Picoult, Jennifer Boylan: “I loved this book. Written by 2 authors. Very suspenseful with a surprising end. This book encompasses true crime, love, true friendship, transgender issues and beekeeping.”

A reader from Newton read *Evicted* by Matthew Desmond: “Matthew's experience immersed in a deeply poor area of Milwaukee, intertwined with the academic perspective of his research, was deeply moving and enlightening, and equally enraging.”

A reader from Lincoln read *big* by Vashti Harrison: “This book for kids (of all ages) is beautifully illustrated by the author. It tells the story of a very young girl who is criticized for not being slim and/or small like the other girls at ballet or like the other kids around her.”

A reader from Lowell read *The Devil's Chessboard* by David Talbot: "Extremely interesting read about Allen Dulles and the way he transformed the CIA. This book explains much of the power behind the power in Washington DC."

A reader from Worcester read *The 272* by Swarms, Rachel: "Good book going into the histories of families related to the 272 slaves sold by Georgetown University. Still reading the book."

A reader from Townsend read *Whee the crowdads sing* by Delia Owens: "Really sad and interesting. A very strange twist."

A reader from Rochester read *A Restless Truth* by Freya Marsky: "This fun historical / mystery / ghostly / romantic romp on a turn of the century ocean liner was very entertaining!"

A reader from SPRINGFIELD read *Hello Molly!* by Molly Shannon: "this memoir was both funny and heart-breaking. It was fun to hear about how she got famous, where she came from, and the funny/crazy things that she did & happened to her."

A reader from Revere read *Wrong Place, Wrong Time* by Gillian McAllister: "I loved this book. I tend to be a thriller reader, but the way this book was structured was so interesting that I personally would recommend to others."

A reader from Bolton read *Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes: "This book was recommended to me by a friend. It's not the type of book I would ordinarily gravitate to. But I LOVED it! It kept my attention throughout. The strong female characters were inspiring."

A reader from middleboro read *The Rabbit Factory* by Marshal Karp: "IN SPITE OF BEING 400 + PAGES STORY KEPT ME INTERESTED WITH GOOD PLOT TWISTS. ACTUALLY TURNED OUT TO BE A QUICK READ. SEEMED TO BE REACHING A LITTLE ON THE FINAL PLOT BUT I ENJOYED IT AND WOULD RECOMMEND THE BOOK AND INTEND TO READ SOME OF HIS OTHER WORKS."

A reader from Hopkinton read *One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot* by Marianne Cronin: "Beautifully written tale of 17 year old Lenni and 83 year old Margot as they reflect upon their combined 100 years after meeting in the hospital art therapy ward. Love, laughter, heartbreak. This was a wonderful book... one my 2023 favorites!"

A reader from Springfield read *Winter Garden* by Kristin Hannah: "It's a long start in the beginning. This book made my tears come down. Good read!"

A reader from Braintree read *We Could Be Heros* by Mike Chen: "Unlike other superhero books I've read."

A reader from Milford read *Whiskey When We're Dry* by John Larison: "I don't think I've ever read a "Western" before. This was excellent. Violence does not always seem to have emotional consequences in stories with lots of action, but these characters were all scarred by witnessing, experiencing, and perpetrating violence. By doing so, it gave the story emotional heft and avoided romanticizing the "taming" of the West."

A reader from NORTHAMPTON read *Good Different* by Meg Eden Kuyatt: "I realistic portrayal of how sensory overload feels to someone who is neurodiverse. A must read for educators to understand their students."

A reader from Wakefield read *Come Fly the World* by Julia Cooke: "I liked hearing what a stewardess' life was like. It also sounds like air travel used to be a lot more luxurious. Then it got pretty political, which I wasn't expecting."

A reader from Norwell read *Megathreats* by Nouriel Roubini: "A crucially important, if a bit overwhelming, book that should be required reading for each and every member of our government. The debt crisis, deglobalization, the coming AI revolution, climate challenges--not the least of which involves massive forced migration--are all upon us, and we need to act on them yesterday."

A reader from Longmeadow read *Wrong place wrong time* by Gilliam McAllister: "Unputdownable! It was a masterpiece of a novel and as a parent I could relate to the struggle of this mother to prove the innocence of her teenage son!"

A reader from Worcester read *Rogue Justice* by Stacey Abrams: "Well written with intensely drawn action."

A reader from Hanover read *The Sun and the Star* by Mark Oshiro and Rick Riordan: "Love going back in this world! I'm glad to learn Nico's and Will's stories. It's like catching up old friends."