



2023 Reading Challenge

MAY

**A book of
nonfiction on a
subject new to you**

A reader from Beverly read *Versailles* by Colin Jones: “This was a really interesting book about the history of the hugely famous tourist site. The history didn’t only encompass the usual history of the French monarchy, but also the history of the site as a museum and the different phases that went through.”

A reader from Amherst read *The Velvet Rage* by Alan Downs, PhD: “A profoundly influential work about what it is to be a homosexual man in America the second half of the 20th century. While it lacks the intersectionality to talk about the confluence of race, class, income, and serological status, keys of nuances understanding, it digs deep into the learned behaviors that plague white gay men in the US.”

A reader from Concord read *Hawking* by Jim Ottaviani: “Interesting read on Hawking and his work in theoretical physics.”

A reader from Northampton read *Extraterrestrial* by Avi loeb: “Very scientific and used a lot of real day comparison like compared pool balls to science, dandelion to seeds chapter, beach shells to something an oumuamua part of planet in the sky. Very readable!!!”

A reader from Plymouth read *Unmasked:my life solving America’s cold cases* by Paul Holes: “Engaging, terrifying, excellent read.”

A reader from Sunderland read *Alice Bliss* by Laura Harrington: "This 2012 Mass Book Award winner was about the experience of a family, particularly the 15-year-old daughter, whose father is deployed to Iraq. It was well written and realistic. It will truly hit close to home if you've had a loved one sent to war."

A reader from Hopedale read *The Day the World Came to Town in Gander Newfoundland* by Jim Defede: "After seeing the play, *Come From Away*, I had to read this book to find out more about how the town of Gander helped so many stranded airline passengers. After the horror of 9-11, it was good to read a story that shows goodness still exists in the world."

A reader from Melrose read *The Hawk's Way* by Sy Montgomery: "I never, ever want to spend time with a bird of prey, but Montgomery's fascination with such creatures is eye-opening."

A reader from Mashpee read *The premonition poisoner: a true story of serial killer Tillie Klimek* by Charlene Ellis: "Absolutely surprised me how long it took people to begin getting suspicious of this woman. Almost comical, really, how blatantly transparent she was in her actions and still!"

A reader from Mashpee read *The premonition poisoner: a true story of serial killer Tillie Klimek* by Charlese Ellis: "Absolutely shocked me how long it took for the authorities to catch on to this woman. Honestly was kind of comical how she was so transparent with her actions and intentions and still she pretty much got away with it!"

A reader from WORCESTER read *BEEES & BEE-KEEPING* by DEREK HALL: "THIS BOOK WAS SO ENJOYABLE. IT WAS FASCINATING TO LEARN ABOUT BEES AND THEIR SOCIAL STRUCTURE. THE PHOTOGRAPHS WERE MAGNIFICENT!"

A reader from Fall River read *All For the Union* by Robert Hunt Rhodes, ed.: "This is the Civil War diary of Elisha Hunt Rhodes, a Union soldier from Rhode Island. It gave me a fascinating glimpse of what it was actually like to serve in the Union army during the Civil War. Full of interesting (and sometimes humorous) anecdotes. I have nothing but respect for this fine man who enlisted at 19 and mustered out as a colonel four years later."

A reader from Wilbraham read *Life is Hard How Philosophy Can Help Us Find Our Way* by Kieran Setiya: "In depth analysis of life's challenges. Chapters on topics of Infirmity, Loneliness, Grief, Failure and ultimately Hope. Heavy, thought provoking content."

A reader from Lowell read *Crying in hmart* by Michelle Zauner: "Sad but true."

A reader from Swansea read *Vanderbilt: The Rise and Fall of an American Dynasty* by Anderson Cooper (Author), Katherine Howe (Author): "It was interesting to learn about an era in history that I was not very familiar with."

A reader from Billerica read *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer: "Many parts are beautiful. Some of it can be preachy. Overall inspiring."

A reader from Andover read *The Sewing Girl's Tale* by John Wood Sweet: "The book was an eye opener about not only the law but cultural norms in both late 18th century New York and helped the reader reflect on the United State's legal and cultural handling of rape today."

A reader from Hatfield read *The Secret Life of Fungi* by Aliya Whitely: "This was a fun read in an area I had never thought to investigate. Her enthusiasm for all things fungi is contagious!!!"

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Romantic Outlaws: The Extraordinary Lives of Mary Wollstonecraft & Mary Shelley* by Charlotte Gordon: "This dual biography provides a fascinating, engrossing, and painstakingly detailed chronicle of two literary legends: Mary Wollstonecraft and her daughter Mary Shelley. It was wonderfully transportive, made me want to read Mary Wollstonecraft's writing, and put me in the mood for a near-future Frankenstein re-read."

A reader from Wakefield read *It's OK That You're Not OK: Meeting Grief and Loss in a Culture That Doesn't Understand* by Megan Devine: "Navigating grief and helping others to understand how to support a grieving person is a topic new to me since my husband suddenly passed away. This book was so helpful in giving myself to permission to acknowledge that life will never be the same and I will not be the same person I once was. It gave me a lot of tools for navigating this new life and I highly recommend it to other grieving people."

A reader from Salem read *Developmental Psychopathology And Wellness* by James J. Hudziak: "Interesting information but a difficult read. Definitely a new topic to me."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Atlas of the Heart* by Brene Brown: "Wow! I loved how this book gave me a better language to express my emotions and feelings. This is one book that everyone should read."

A reader from Braintree read *Zen in the Art of Writing* by Ray Bradbury: "While highly appreciative of creative writing, I had never given much thought to an author's own process, needs, frustrations, rewards. This book is illuminating in that regard. And the essays are also amusing, even as they touch on the psychology of it all."

A reader from North Reading read *Everything You Need To Know About: Hepatitis C* by Chris Hayhurst: "I did not know much about hepatitis C so this was very interesting. I was surprised by how many people have it worldwide. I would like to know why the other types of hepatitis are so different from hepatitis C, yet all are somehow related."

A reader from Salem read *The Mycocultural Revolution* by Peter McCoy: "Great read and very informative. The information was presented in a way I could retain and utilize in my daily life. I will definitely continue my mushroom education."

A reader from Dracut read *The Hawk's Way* by Sy Montgomery: "I guess I never really thought about how falconry could be so dangerous! Sy Montgomery tells it like it is!"

A reader from SCITUATE read *Hear Me Now* by Adrienne Spinozzi, Editor: "This is the story of the Black potters of Edgefield, South Carolina including the famous Dave the Potter. There is so much to learn about people whose enslavement involved creations of art work. This book gives background for the exhibit which is at the MFA. I learned so much!"

A reader from WAKEFIELD read *The Pioneers* by David McCullough: "I know little about the settling of OH and surrounding states so I greatly enjoyed reading about the true patriots who settled here and developed the territory. It was the typical genius of McCullough and one of the few of his that I had not yet read. Thanks for the challenge to read this one."

A reader from Springfield read *Fourteen Minutes* by James Croall: "Fascinating story of the shipping disaster that took the most passengers lives in history. (More total lives were lost on the Titanic but the majority were crew, not passengers.) The ocean liner was heading up the St. Lawrence River on the way

to England when it was struck broadside by a cargo ship in dense fog. It took only 14 minutes to sink. Since most people were asleep at the time of collision, they were unable to reach the lifeboats or jump from the ship.”

A reader from Melrose read *The self-love revolution* by Veggie Tovar: “Adore her writing style. Though this was meant for young POC adults I found it helpful in dealing with middle age changes to my body as well.”

A reader from South Hadley read *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann: “How many ways and over how many generations must America's native peoples suffer the negative power of racism and greed?”

A reader from Belchertown read *Beekeeping tips and detail guide* by Ebook: “Great introduction into basics of bee keeping.”

A reader from Amesbury read *Gory Details* by Erika Engelhaupt: “While some chapters were a little hard to get through (due to the ick factor), it was, overall, a very interesting read and I learned new things. The author was engaging and kept the science at an easy to understand level.”

A reader from Rochester read *Fen, Bog & Swamp* by Annie Proulx: “Interesting book about the swampy land and climate change. How climate change and filling in wetlands are promoting release of CO2 and methane.”

A reader from Paxton read *If These Walls Could Talk: Stories from the Boston Red Sox* by Jerry Remy: “I don't care much for sports but am trying to support my loved ones by learning a little more about their beloved - this book was a fun way to learn about some Red Sox history and connect with my partner!”

A reader from Georgetown read *Who was John McCain* by Michael Burgin: “First time reading kids autobiography. Pretty informative.”

A reader from Burlington read *All the Beauty in the World* by Patrick Bringley: “What a beautiful memoir of one man's time as a guard at the Metropolitan Museum of Art! Moving and fascinating, it has made me think differently about the people who guard museum exhibits.”

A reader from Attleboro read *The Answer to Anxiety* by Joyce Meyer: “This book is definitely for people who are Catholic, as it focuses on turning to God to help you overcome your anxiety. I did learn some new strategies I can try.”

A reader from Wilbraham read *Splendid Solution: Jonas Salk and the Conquest of Polio* by Jeffrey Kluger: “This was an interesting study of the complicated process of developing a vaccine. Jonas Salk battled not only the devastating polio virus, but also competing scientists, the politics of obtaining funding, and vocal skeptics. There were many similarities to the Covid pandemic, except that polio targeted mainly children, and the disease had existed for many years. Fortunately, Salk's discovery was successful and eliminated this scourge from the US and most of the world.”

A reader from Beverly read *Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer: “This book gave me an insight into the beauty and perils of those who climb, especially extreme summits like Everest. This account of the 1996 climbing disaster, of which I was previously unaware, shows just how little humans can do in the face of nature, and how minor errors can compound into catastrophe. A read that will stay with me for a long time.”

A reader from Attleboro read *Moonwalking With Einstein* by Joshua Foer: “This book is subtitled *The Art and Science of Remembering Everything*. Interesting read with techniques that are easy to immediately use. Worth taking a look.”

A reader from Swansea read *The Book of Turtles* by Sy Montgomery: “The illustrations were wonderful. Lots of interesting facts about turtles. Very accessible text for youth.”

A reader from Wilmington read *The world record book of racist stories* by Amber Ruffian and Lacey Lamar: “It was an interesting book for both the comedic undertones and just jaw dropping detail of what seems to be absolutely insane levels of stupidity in what people think is appropriate to say out loud to other people. I would like to think society is at a point of doing better, but I’m obviously wrong.”

A reader from Fitchburg read *Surrender* by Bono: “This was a most interesting memoir. It was divided into 40 chapters. each entitled and about a U2 song. The writing was deep, spiritual and extraordinarily interesting. I loved It!!”

A reader from Beverly read *Happy Landings Emilie Loring’s Life, Writing, and Wisdom* by Patti Bender: “Happy Landings is a beautifully designed and incredibly researched book about a woman (Emilie Loring) who was quite a prolific and popular author. Her books were translated into many languages. They appeared frequently on lists of best sellers. I chose this book for the May challenge because I had never heard of Emilie Loring. She lived through interesting times from 1866 until 1951. She is quoted as having said that living is the biggest thing any of us have to do, so why not make it an art rather than hit-or-miss fashion. Perhaps we can all recognize the art of our lives. Happy reading!”

A reader from Northampton read *The Ride of a lifetime: Lessons learned from 15 years as ceo of the Walt Disney company* by Robert Iger: “Interesting tidbits from behind the mouse ears. Chose it for this because I’m not a ceo of a major company, and so I was not expecting how much of it could directly apply to my own work and creative ventures.”

A reader from Hudson read *Drag: The Complete Story* by Simon Doonan: “Less educational than I had hoped, but very interesting and incredibly beautiful!”

A reader from Northborough read *Dinners With Ruth* by Nina Totenberg: “A lovely book about both the power of friendships but also an interesting insight into the workings of the Supreme Court.”

A reader from Chicopee read *The Beginner’s Guide to the Akashic Records: The Understanding of Your Soul’s History and How to Read It* by Whitney Jefferson Evans: “This is a nice primer for the Akashic records. I’d never heard of this before and this book breaks it down into categories for energy healing and what the Akashic records are and spirit guides. It is intriguing and makes me want to read more on soul reading and spirit guides.”

A reader from Wakefield read *I’m Glad My Mom Died* by Jennette McCurdy: “I loved this, even though my heart broke for Jennette over and over. I’m so glad she was finally able to work toward recovery.”

A reader from Sagamore Beach read *Sacred Nature* by Karen Armstrong: “Great look at today’s concerns about nature and climate change. Written by a Nun it talks about nature and how different religions handle nature. Also brings in philosophy. Interesting thought provoking read.”

A reader from Monson read *Silences So Deep: Music, Solitude, Alaska* by John Luther Adams: "Silences so Deep is Memoir written by composer, John Luther Adams, in which he reflects on many of his compositions, his life in the Alaska wilderness, and the many friends who influenced his music. I will look up his award winning piece Become Ocean and the poet who influenced his life, John Haines, and remember his words: 'It seems to me that the best any of us can do is try to conduct our lives so that, on balance, we give more than we take--from the earth, and from our fellow human beings.' I am enriched reading the memoir of this artist."

A reader from Lowell read *The Storyteller: Tales of Life and Music* by Dave Grohl: "I didn't know a lot about Dave Grohl except he was the drummer of Nirvana and the creator of FooFighters. I love it, I found is message to be wonderful."

A reader from Amherst read *Towns of the Swift River Valley* by Elena Palladino: "Such a wealth of information on the Quabbin Reservoir and the four towns that were sacrificed for its creation. I have spent a lot of time walking and hiking in and around the Quabbin and really appreciate the author's work in sharing the history in a most relatable way."

A reader from Peabody read *In Love: A Memoir of Love and Loss* by Amy Bloom: "It's a very sad memoir about assisted suicide. Written very well from the perspective of a wife whose husband has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease."

A reader from Chelmsford read *The Wager* by David Grann: "I am a fan of Grann's work and was excited to read this extremely well written and researched account of this little know mutiny and trial. It is a sea adventure of survival and betrayal and British political maneuvering. Reminiscent of the Bounty Trilogy and Wouk's Caine Mutiny."

A reader from Topsfield read *The Feather Thief* by Kirk Wallace Johnson: "My kind of true crime - no gore, lots of history."

A reader from SUTTON read *Astrophysics for People in a Hurry* by Neil deGrasse Tyson: "Wow! There was a LOT of information in this book! I listened to the audiobook read by the author himself, and Neil deGrasse Tyson makes a very complicated subject both fun and informative."

A reader from North Dighton read *Ours to Master and to Own: Workers' Control from the Commune to the Present* by Immanuel Ness and Dario Azzellini (editors): "An interesting collection of historical essays about democracy in the workplace. Heavy and history but mostly light on theory."

A reader from Hadley read *Emotional Labor: The Invisible Work Shaping Our Lives and How to Claim Our Power* by Rose Hackman: "It made me see interactions at work differently."

A reader from Colora read *Kitchen Confidential: Adventures in the Culinary Underbelly* by Anthony Bourdain: "I really enjoyed this book. I listened to the audiobook read by the author and his inflections were perfect. It was interesting to read his perspective on the world early in his career, before becoming a famous TV host. It's only made sadder because I know how the story ends."

A reader from Saugus read *And the Category Is...: Inside New York's Vogue, House, and Ballroom Community* by Ricky Tucker: "I thought this book was a nice glimpse into black queer culture learning about ballroom and voguing."

A reader from Belchertown read *Jackie Cochran: Pilot in the Fastest Lane* by Doris L. Rich: "Good advice: never underestimate the power of a woman. Jackie Cochran was a woman born to fly and fly she did. From setting land speed records, to distance flying, and everything in between, Jackie challenged daily norms of pre-WWII conventions of women and their role. She is best known as the driving force behind the Women's Air Service Pilots (WASP) which was recognized as a military force tasked with the delivery of WWII aircraft from bombers to fighters and everything in between all over the globe. From rags to riches, from nobody to somebody, Jackie Cochran was determined to be the best. And she was. Jackie is now being rediscovered by a generation that seeks female role models. GREAT READ."

A reader from Belchertown read *All Around the World Cookbook* by Sheila Lukins: "I've never tried cooking dishes from another part of the world. This book had several interesting recipes that I'd like to try!"

A reader from Boston read *Heroines, Rescuers, Rabbis, and Spies: Unsung Woman of the Holocaust* by Sarah Silverstein Swartz: "This young adult/ adult book is about nine woman who saved hundreds of people during Holocaust. The author is the daughter of Holocaust survivors . These woman showed extreme bravery during a very dark time in the history of the United States."

A reader from Chicopee read *A Book Of Days* by Patti Smith: "A visual book containing 365 photos and captions that document a year in the life of a poet, performer, and writer and her documentary process."

A reader from Halifax read *Our Time Is Now* by Stacey Abrams: "Very interesting read on voter suppression."

A reader from Dracut read *Who Believes What?* by Anna Wills, Nora Tomm: "It explained the 5 major religious groups. I was struck by how many similarities there were amongst them."

A reader from New Bedford read *I Know Who You Are How an amateur DNA sleuth unmasked the Golden State Killer and changed crime fighting forever* by Barbara Rae-Venter: "Well written- interesting topic."

A reader from Chicopee read *Night* by Elie Wiesel: "A horrifying tale of Elie Wiesel's experience in a Nazi concentration camp. Through Elie's resolve, he survives through his experiences in the camp, giving his readers a firsthand account of the atrocities committed against him and others during this time."

A reader from Belchertown read *Eager* by Ben Goldfarb: "The subtitle is The Surprising, Secret Life of Beavers and Why They Matter. This was a fascinating book about how beavers transformed our landscapes and how important they are to our ecology and survival. I learned so much about how the beaver fur trade impacted the settling of the U.S. and the negative impact of their decline. And then positive stories about how their reintroduction can impact the land."

A reader from Ludlow read *The Everything Store* by Brad Stone: "It's just OK have learned about Bezos's history and story but he's definitely not anyone I'd care to know! Tha Amazon story is all over the map. Actually haven't finished it yet!"

A reader from Amesbury read *Weird scary and unusual*: "It was a fun read."

A reader from Beverly read *The Ship Beneath the Ice* by Mensun Bound: "The book was a good read."

A reader from Forestdale read *Rosemary-The Hidden Kennedy Daughter* by Kate Clifford Larson: “We know so much about the Kennedy family, except Rosemary. I love with everything she had to go thru, she changed her family and in turn how people viewed the Intellectually Disabled.”

A reader from Hanover read *Hockey's Hidden Gods* by Megale, S.C.: “Those that know me know that I am an avid Boston Bruins fan, so, yeah, I know a little bit about hockey. This book, however, is about SLED hockey. As an AutismMom and recently rendered partially deaf individual, I am passionate about accessibility. Hidden Hockey Gods introduces us to the members of the 2002 Paralympic Gold Medal winning teaming. NOT inspiration porn, just a really great book about a seriously awesome group of people. Score!”

A reader from Hopedale read *Stash: My Life in Hiding* by Laura Cathcart Robbins: “I picked this book because of the addiction aspect, and it was a great read showed the lowest part of her life plus recovering!”

A reader from Leverett read *Evicted* by Matthew Desmond: “This book gives a compelling account of the tragedy of the eviction machine in Milwaukee, the endless cycle of housing insecurity that is a way of life for some people. Very upsetting, but so important for us to know.”

A reader from Dracut read *After:A Doctor Explores What Near-Death Experiences Reveal About Life and Beyond* by Bruce Greyson M.D.: “I thought this subject would hold my interest. Unfortunately, the researched experience stories didn't offer any new perspective. I'm still on the fence.”

A reader from Beverly read *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer: “Thought provoking. The themes of reciprocity really resonated with me. And in the weeks that followed after finishing, I continue to reflect on its lessons.”

A reader from Centerville read *TURNING* by Becky BLUE: “I was looking for a book on the spiritual aspect of aging. Subtitled *The Magic and Mystery of More Days*, it opened, for me, a door to acceptance and creative thinking in my growing old years; and a gift of gratitude, freedom and hope.”

A reader from Beverly read *The Secret Life of Cows* by Rosamund Young: “I loved reading about cows independence and personalities. Each cow is very intelligent... that being said, my favorite cow is probably Chippy Minton, who refuses to sleep with muddy legs and always reports to the barn for grooming before bed.”

A reader from Wilmington read *Bella Tuscany The Sweet Life in Italy* by Frances Mayes: “A nice into someone else's life and their daily trials of improving their lives and the caretaking of a property.”

A reader from Elbridge read *The Palace Papers* by Tina Brown: “This was front and center in my library the week of Charles's coronation, and I thought, “Well, why not?”. Parts I found a little tedious, but on the whole, it was an entertaining and eye opening read.”

A reader from Reading read *Clanlands: Whisky, Warfare, and a Scottish Adventure Like No Other* by Sam Heughan & Graham McTavish: “This book is about Scotland, it's pleasures, peculiarities, and relevant (battle) history. The authors are actors in the show *Outlander*, which I have not seen-- if you're a fan, you will likely enjoy it even more than I did, which was a lot. They are a couple of funny guys but also give information that I found excellent as I prepared for a trip to Scotland. Yes, men in kilts.”

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Astrophysics for People in a Hurry* by Neil deGrasse Tyson: "Easily understandable book about planets, black holes and other phenomena."

A reader from Beverly read *The School That Escaped the Nazis* by Deborah Cadbury: "I had never heard of Anna Essinger before, and she was an amazing woman, who accomplished so much to save children from the Holocaust and establish a school where they could thrive together and support one another. I learned so much about the Kindertransports and the openness of Britain to take in thousands of children."

A reader from Beverly read *Weak Strongman: the limits of power in Putin's Russia* by Timothy Frye: "Not only is this book super well written and engaging, it addresses every misconception and contradiction you could possibly hold in your head about Russia. A must read for anyone who's been watching the news and thinking "huh?""

A reader from Springfield read *The Godmother* by Barbie Latza Nadeau: "I have chosen *The Godmother*, a book about mafia women. I have always wanted to read more about the mafia as the movies are so interesting. This book is an in-depth look of the families in Italy. The good, bad and really bad of both the women and the system. If you like mafia stuff, this is a must read."

A reader from Northfield read *world religions-islam* by khadijah knight: "did not realize it was a childrens book when i saved it on my library website. but it was quite interesting as i knew nothing about the islam religion."

A reader from Andover read *Burnout: The Secret to Unlocking the Stress Cycle* by Emily Nagoski and Amelia Nagoski: "I appreciated the concrete tools these authors provided for unlocking the stress response cycle."

A reader from Hadley read *Orpheus in the Middle Ages* by John Block Friedman: "This is fascinating study of the adaptations of the Orpheus myth in the writing and visual art of various cultures from the classical through the end of the medieval period. I had no idea how widely this story has been adapted and how the the descent into the underworld that is most widely known today, gets only a passing mention in the earliest versions of the myth."

A reader from Wakefield read *Maybe You Should Talk to Someone* by Lori Gottlieb: "It was really interesting and very emotional."

A reader from Amherst read *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up* by Marie Kondo: "If it doesn't spark joy it should go. I thought I could use some advice on decluttering and this book gave me some insight."

A reader from Leominster read *The Body: A Guide for Occupants* by Bill Bryson: "This was an informative, mostly fun but occasionally sobering tour through the systems of the body and the diseases and other conditions that impact our health. I found it fascinating and I learned a lot."

A reader from Beverly read *Stiff* by Mary Roach: "It was an interesting book and certainly a topic I hadn't considered before. Sometimes it was a little too gruesome for me, but overall it providing a very interesting survey on the dead."

A reader from Northampton read *Beaver Land* by Leila Philip: "I am impressed with the breath and depth of the author's research into this truly amazing animal. The almost total extermination of the beaver is

yet another example of the arrogance of (mostly) white people destroying the balance of nature and thereby creating unnecessary problems. Thankfully some are working to reintroduce beavers into our wetlands to utilize their gifts in restoring and maintaining our river systems. I thoroughly enjoyed this book - even the sections about fur trappers! FYI - I chose this book after seeing a video of beavers at work in a marsh not far from my home. The video was one of many posted by Laurie Sanders co-director of Historic Northampton.”

A reader from Tewksbury read *The Immortal Live of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot: “A world of scientific research that I didn't know anything about. It made the researchers in the early to mid 20th century seem heartless and cold. It seems that things may be better now, but perhaps not. The history of the Lacks family was interesting, sad and probably more typical that I would care to believe. Slow at times, but over all a very interesting read.”

A reader from Hartland read *Stuff Matters* by Mark Miodownik: “Very interesting to read about material science.”

A reader from Sandwich read *The Six* by Laura Thompson: “A crazy but true story of an aristocratic family with rather suspect allegiances revolving around racism, communism, and Nazism.”

A reader from Dracut read *Everybody* by Olivia Laing: “I have cried multiple times while reading this eye-opener. Laing's ability to fuse prose with provoking researching is really something special. More pride!”

A reader from Chicopee read *Animal Tragic* by Malcolm Tait: “This is a book about popular misconceptions about animals. One example is the flying squirrel which actually does not fly. It glides.”

A reader from Florence read *Muppets in Moscow* by Natasha Lance Rogoff: “I felt like all of the trials and tribulations that the author went through was what I would have expected. It got redundant pretty quickly.”

A reader from Methuen read *Vanderbilt The Rise and Fall of an American Dynasty* by Anderson Cooper and Katherine Howe: “A very interesting look into the gilded era of New York and Newport. I learnt so much about this family, especially the tragedies and scandals that happened throughout the years.”

A reader from Belchertown read *Growing Joy* by Maria Failla: “Shared good practices but I wish there was more plant knowledge sprinkled in.”

A reader from Salem read *Dark Tide: The Great Boston Molasses Flood of 1919* by Stephen Puleo: “I found this book interesting due to its historical contents that I was previously unaware of but also as it has many details regarding major construction that I found myself searching out to understand the significance of. Both construction and The Great Molasses Flood of 1919 in Boston's North End are two nonfiction subjects that were previously new to me before reading this very unique book by Stephen Puleo. I think the most fascinating part of this book was simply imagining the day the incident happened. There was quite literally a flood of molasses flowing through the streets of Boston. Tragically many people died due to this disaster and many lawsuits occurred afterwards, speculations of whether it was a construction failure or some degree of tampering occurred is highly debated. I also found it fascinating the amount of weight that was held in the tank, around 26 million pounds. There was also a great deal reference to legal, immigration and physics in the book. Overall this was an incredibly interesting book

and one that would appeal to many different kinds of people, especially those from the Boston area or those interested in regional/national history.”

A reader from Stoneham read *Man's Search For Meaning* by Victor E. Frankl: “Am a bit squeamish when reading holocaust books. This one had so much pathos, it felt like talking to a friend. High recommend!”

A reader from Reading read *The White Mosque* by Sofia Samatar: “Beautiful writing, and definitely about a subject I knew nothing about- the late 19th century Mennonite exodus from Germany to Central Asia. A bit disjointed for my taste, but interesting.”

A reader from Rochester read *Far appalachia* by Noah adams: “Noah is a great storyteller The book is about his journey down the new river which runs thru North Carolina, Virginia and west Virginia tells about the people who first settled there and those who live and work on the river now Great story.”

A reader from Wakefield read *How Civil Wars Start and How to Stop Them* by Barbara F. Walter: “This book was really good, ultimately, once I got through the learning reading vs. what I tend to do more typically with fiction books. It was well researched and delivered information in a thought provoking way that was not too overwhelming for someone without a strong foundation on the topic.”

A reader from Dartmouth read *Women rowing north* by Mary pipher: “Mary Pipher explores all the stages women go through as they age. Great interviews and insights.”

A reader from Plymouth read *Fallen idols: twelve statues that made history* by Alex Tunzelmann: “This book is well researched and brings history together. It displays a pattern in modern history that is undeniable but also so debatable.”

A reader from Chester read *Sixteen Minutes From Home* by Mark Cantrell and Donald Vaughan: “It gave a lot of interesting information about NASA disasters. It seem like it was a little too soon, it did not have a conclusion for the Columbia tragedy.”

A reader from Hanover read *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer: “This book is an eye-opening for me. I learned so much about indigenous wisdom, scientific knowledge and the teaching of plants. I look at the nature around differently now after I read this book.”

A reader from Auburn read *A Passion for Nature - The Life of John Muir* by Donald Woster: “Interesting biography about John Muir and how his influence in environmental politics was evolved. Pragmatic tree hugger who rocked.”

A reader from Stoneham read *Ducks: Two Years in the Oil Sands* by Kate Beaton: “I enjoyed Beaton's drawings and frank writing. It sheds light on what it's like for women to live and work in a heavily male dominated industry.”

A reader from Lunenburg read *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson: “The most thoroughly enjoyable book I have read in a while. Part memoir of Bryson’s attempt to hike the Appalachian Trail; part tribute to the ecology, natural environment, geological history and wildlife of North America and the history of the trail itself. Informative and incredibly entertaining.”

A reader from West Yarmouth read *The Cougar Conundrum* by Mark Elbroch: “I now know much more about Cougars and the difficulty balancing the needs of people and animals where they live is close habitats.”

A reader from Auburn read *The Elephant Whisperer: My life with the herd in the African wild* by Lawrence Anthony: "Fantastic book about conservationist Lawrence Anthony taking possession of a rogue elephant herd to save them from being killed. Rogue! How important this man was to the herd, the village and to the world. He had a self-discovered ability to calm traumatized elephants. After much mayhem in the beginning, he and the 9 member herd grew to trust each other and communicate. He learned much about injuries and illnesses of the elephants sometimes too late. The elephants' grief processes are astonishing and unforgettable - pun intentional."

A reader from Lynnfield read "*OMFG, Bees! Bees Are So Amazing and You're About to Find Out Why*" by Matt Kracht: "'OMFG, Bees!' is witty and sometimes made me laugh out loud, and it provides astonishing information about the many varieties and lifestyles of bees, as well as how they may be going extinct and how to save them. All Matt is saying is give bees a chance!"

A reader from Yarmouth Port read *The Peking Express* by James M. Zimmerman: "Well researched and descriptive writing detail the true story of bandits robbing The Peking Express and taking hostages."

A reader from Plainville read *The Soul of an Octopus* by Sy Montgomery: "When I first opened it I was ecstatic to see the New England Aquarium because I love it and have taken the kids multiple times. It was such a long read for a short book. I don't know if I just couldn't get into it or if the writer just droned on trying to romanticize the description but it lost my interest and I couldn't just read it all at once like usual."

A reader from Reading read *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer: "Nonfiction isn't my favorite so I was shocked at how much I loved this book. Robin does an amazing job at relaying ecological information and intertwining that with indigenous teachings. I wasn't expecting it to make me cry."

A reader from Worcester read *Beaverland* by Leila Philip: "How one weird rodent made America – beavers could alter our water problems by adding water to the earth. Amazing creatures, the only engineers whose work can be seen by outer space. A book every politician and environmental worker should read."

A reader from Lunenburg read *The Hidden Lives of Owls* by Leigh Calvez: "This was such an interesting trip into the lives of owls especially in the pacific northwest."

A reader from Sunderland read *Sugar Nation* by Jeff O'Connell: "Most interesting to me was the research on the increase in diabetes worldwide, and the role added sugar plays."

A reader from Paxton read *Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man* by Emmanuel Acho: "I really enjoyed this book and learned a lot about racism."

A reader from Belchertown read *Fuzz: When Nature Breaks the Law* by Mary Roach: "Fascinating nonfiction about animals who wreak havoc on society, and how we problem solve nature"

A reader from Irvine CA read *Lords of the Horizons A History of the Ottoman Empire* by Jason Goodwin: "Six hundred years and a lot of people died."

A reader from Pittsfield read *In Love* by Amy Bloom: "Immediately gripping - I've never read such a sad book that was so hard to put down. Towards the end it did get a little difficult to continue reading. This

author is so talented, the combination of the love story and battle with Alzheimer's is interwoven in such a unique way.”

A reader from Harwich read *Mott Street: A Chinese American Family's Story of Exclusion and Homecoming* by Ava Chin: “A reference to The Page Act in the novel "Four Treasures of the Sky" led me to "Mott Street: A Chinese American Family's Story of Exclusion and Homecoming" by Ava Chin. This is a well-researched, well-written, and compelling account of the effects of The Page Act (1875) and The Chinese Exclusion Act (1882) on Chin's family beginning with the arrival of her first ancestor, Wong Yuan Son, in the 1860s. {We are a nation of immigrants; why do we continue treat one another other so badly?}”

A reader from Erving read *Bittersweet: How Sorrow and Longing Make Us Whole* by Susan Cain: “A lot to think about during and after reading it. My favorite take away on sorrow was ‘Not moving on, moving forward.’”

A reader from Lynnfield read *An Immense World* by Ed Yong: “Fascinating book, really enjoyed and appreciated learning about the sensory perceptions of different animals. Highly recommended read.”

A reader from Wilmington read *The Fighting 69th* by Sean Michael Flynn: “While the stories of the Guard's heroism and courage were inspiring, I did find much of the logistical content pretty dry.”

A reader from Dracut read *Detective In The Dooryard* by Timothy A Cotton: “True Crime and other police related stories, as told by a Mainer.”

A reader from Somerville read *The Edison Gene: ADHD and the Gift of the Hunter Child* by Thom Hartmann: “Eye-opening!”

A reader from Braintree read *Snapshots of My Father, John Silber* by Rachel Silber Devlin: “As a BU employee its nice to understands perspectives of previous presidents and how they view leadership within higher education.”

A reader from Florence read *Physics for Rock stars* by Christine McKinley: “Silly and true, an enjoyable combination.”

A reader from Bolton read *A Fever in the Heartland* by Timothy Egan: “Very interesting history of the KKK.”

A reader from Reading read *The Astronaut Wives Club* by Lily Koppel: “Interesting look at the lives of the women who did everything they could to support the dreams of their husbands. Turns out, not a lot of the marriages survived in the long term...”

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Betrayal: the crisis in the Catholic Church* by The Boston Globe: “A painful but important read. The depth of this book is wonderfully well researched.”

A reader from Acton read *Connect first* by Melaine A: “Nice guide on how to connect at workplace.”

A reader from LOWELL read *Half Earth Socialism* by Troy Vettese & Drew Pendergrass: “This book comes with its own video game simulator of the many complex and inspiring forms of socialist policy that could help prevent the worst effects of the climate catastrophe. I learned so much and recommend this to anyone who's feeling hopeless and futureless these days.”

A reader from Plymouth read *The Creative Act: A Way of Being* by Rick Rubin: "I'm a big fan of Rick Rubin as a music producer, knowing how he has worked with so many varied musicians.,The book explains his approach to the process of creating art."

A reader from Marblehead read *Barnflower* by Carla Panciera: "Carla writes about cows in a way that makes me fall in love with dairy farming!"

A reader from Wilmington read *The Work of Human Hands* by G. Wayne Miller: "this was my wife's fav. book and got her into becoming a nurse practitioner. i thought it was a boring medical jargon book, but it was surprisingly a page-turner. you just want to know how the doctors were able to truly perform modern miracle wonders if fixing babies/newborns of any genetic conditions that may impact all of the rest of their lives. it's an incredible testament of how far we have come in just less than a century of medical progress everything from anesthesia to through various scans and medical equipment that was capable of fixing/operating on conditions that if often fatal to newborns or would be extremely difficult to survive and even if you did, your quality of life would suffer. a truly great book that documents hardy the doc. but also many many histories of the pediatric care in and around boston area... and it really feels so good that i live in an area that can perform miracles if any of my children would encounter anything life threatening. it's truly a crazy time that we live in, the things we used to die from and now we can not only survive, but thrive and live healthy normal lives."

A reader from Boxford read *Loved Clothes Last* by Orsola de Castro: "This book is so interesting and I've learned so much about how much damage the fast fashion industry causes. Did you know that one garbage truck full of clothes goes into the landfill every second?!?! I was so inspired that I bought myself some embroidery thread and needles to mend some old sweaters that I have."

A reader from Malden read *Tokyo Rose - Zero Hour* by Andre R. Frattino & Kate Kasenow: "Really interesting look at the person accused as Tokyo Rose and what actually happened."

A reader from Pepperell read *Wheat Belly* by William Davis, MD: "Dr. Davis shares how genetic modification of wheat for higher yield crops didn't take into consideration its impact on human bodies. The research on the damage wheat does to the body is compelling. I wish I went gluten free earlier than I did."

A reader from Erving read *Edible Flowers* by Monica Nelson: "It was very interesting to learn about the various edible flowers. On Page 17 I was disappointed to learn that they did not list foxglove to the list of flowers not to eat as it is one of the worst to eat & possibly more deadly than others on the list. Maybe it was not included because they don't consider it a common plant but they are in many gardens. Otherwise I really enjoyed reading it & the pictures."

A reader from Wakefield read *Fly Girl* by Ann Hood: "Anything you wanted to know about airlines and stewards! Insightful."

A reader from Beverly read *Outlive: The Science and Art of Longevity* by Bill Gifford and Peter Attia: "Thought provoking and interesting."

A reader from Melrose read *Immune: a Journey into the Mysterious System that Keeps You Alive* by Philipp Dettmer: "An eminently approachable overview of how the immune system works. It doesn't

claim to make you an immunologist, but does give you a basic understanding of how this amazing and complex biological system operates. 5/5 stars.”

A reader from Woods Hole read *Dinners with Ruth* by NinavTotenberg: “Most interesting telling of the two woman’s family history and their long friendship. The book emphasizes and demonstrates the importance of friendships through all of life’s ups and downs.”

A reader from Beverly read *God: An Anatomy* by Francesca Stavrakopoulou: “Stimulating read as I have limited knowledge of Old Testament - an interpretive analysis of Biblical god through the lens of history, mythology and ancient peoples' connection to the human, physical body. It was all new material for me!”

A reader from Holden read *H is for Hawk* by Helen Macdonald: “Although this book is a memoir, I found the descriptions about falconry and hawking incredibly interesting. It makes me want to learn more about the sport, which is what good nonfiction should do.”

A reader from Boston read *Woman, Captain, Rebel* by Margaret Wilson: “This was an engaging biography of an awesome female Icelandic sea captain! I learned a lot about the sea captain and Icelandic culture; the book really read like a novel because everything was so interesting!”

A reader from Fairhaven read *The scandalous Hamiltons : a gilded age grifter, a founding father's disgraced descendant and a trial at the dawn of tabloid journalism* by Shaffer, Bill: “I had no idea that tabloids started so early on in newspaper history. I guess everyone has always been interested in the goings on of the rich and famous, especially when they suffer an epic failure! This book read like fiction and I enjoyed the historical aspect of it as well.”

A reader from S. Weymouth read *The Rise and Fall of Dinosaurs* by Stephen Brusatte: “I really liked this book! The last time I read about dinosaurs was when I was a kid. I can't remember most of the names from the book, but it was interesting to hear new discoveries and connections.”

A reader from Belchertown read *Jackie Cochran: Pilot in the Fastest Lane* by Doris L. Rich: “Jackie Cochran: Pilot in the Fastest Lane taught me to dream is one thing to acquire the dream is pure determination regardless of the obstacles in your way. Becoming a WASP (Women's Air Service Pilot) meant putting aside your gender and strapping on any number of different aircraft. You needed to be tougher, work extra, and summon all the grit you had within you; and, then, you might be labelled "okay." Jackie Cochran paved the way, along with other female pilots, for women from all walks of life and race, to serve their nation, crack the gender barrier, and do the job well if not better than their male counterparts. These were the exceptional ones.”

A reader from Boston read *The Last Castle* by Denise Kiernan: “Interesting to read about real-life, Gilded Age American "Royalty" and how they built, and shared, their wealth.”

A reader from Florence read *The Nazi Conspiracy: The Secret Plot to Kill Roosevelt, Stalin, and Churchill* by Brad Meltzer and Josh Mensch: “I knew nothing about this plan by the Nazis to assassinate Roosevelt, Stalin and Churchill when they met together in 1943. There were many other things about the war that were new to learn. Not a book I would normally read but worth reading.”

A reader from Northfield read *The Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson: “So much history in this book! It is amazing what they did with the World's Fair Exhibition (Columbian Exhibition) in 1893. The White City

was the Court of Honor. So many "firsts" at this fair - ferris wheel, moving picture using Edison's Kinetoscope, orchestra music thru telephone, PBR beer, etc. HH Holmes was "the devil", a serial killer, but took a backseat in my mind to the fair and it's accomplishments."

A reader from Leominster read *The Soul of an Octopus* by Sy Montgomery: "I knew very few facts about octopuses and learned that they are intelligent and highly adaptable creatures with distinct personalities. Also, I enjoyed that the backdrop was the New England Aquarium, a rite of passage for any kid in Massachusetts."

A reader from Scituate read *Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking* by Susan Cain: "The book addresses how introversion impacts a person's interaction with the world as well as the bias extroverts have towards introverts' communication style. It really exposes how American society has traditionally valued volume and dominant personalities over listeners and observers."

A reader from Worcester read *The Reddest Rose* by Liv Stromquist: "I appreciated the philosophical look at romantic love, though I did not agree with the author's conclusions."

A reader from Falmouth read *Creative mending: beautiful darning, patching and stitching techniques* by Hikaru Noguchi: "Absolutely lovely book on various mending methods. If you're wanting to reduce your carbon footprint in a beautiful way, this book is a great start. Don't throw out those things needing repair . . . make virtue out of necessity and try some of the visible mending methods."

A reader from Naples read *Palo Alto: A History of California, Capitalism, and the World* by Malcom Harris: "Smart, enlightening, funny, and about 28 hours of audio that I found hard to shut off. I lived in the environs for 30 years, but Palo Alto was an opportunity to reconsider what I thought I knew about capitalism and California, and more particularly about those who lived, were schooled, and worked on the Peninsula and on that piece of land called Silicon Valley."

A reader from Spencer read *An Italian Love Story* by James Ernest Shaw: "This well written book makes me feel like I'm experiencing a trip to Italy with the author. It's so real that I can almost smell the food and air on the Amalfi Coast!"

A reader from Andover read *The Soul of an Octopus* by Sy Montgomery: "The octopus is an intelligent animal (far smarter and kinder than some humans). They have emotions and feelings; they learn very rapidly. But they only live for a very few years (two or three)!"

A reader from Hanson read *Kitchen Confidential* by Anthony Bourdain: "Wow! I've never read a book that was so raw as Anthony's book. His passion about food and cooking was so intense that it was like a roller coaster ride of emotions. I couldn't decide if I wanted to be in that hot kitchen cooking with him or out front enjoying his food. His early death was certainly our loss."

A reader from METHUEN read *JFK AND THE UNSPEAKABLE* by JAMES DOUGLASS: "I thought this was an interesting way as to one theory of the JFK assassination that his nephew Robert F Kennedy Jr mentioned as he is running for President."

A reader from Middleboro read *Traditions of the North American Indians* by James Athearn Jones: "I'm learning a lot about the folklore and origin stories of the Native American tribes. It's interesting hearing from their own words but also from an author from 200 years ago."

A reader from Reading read *OMFG Bees!* by Matt Kracht: "OMFG Bees! is a hilarious yet informative guide to bees—types, habitat, behavior, and phenomena—aw well as other insects commonly mistaken for bees. Kracht's tone is cheeky and adoring of these little creatures and all that they do to keep our plant from being a barren wasteland. Upon finishing, I drove right to my local farm stand and purchased \$85 in flowers bees like for our yard."

A reader from Melrose read *The Longest Race: Inside the Secret World of Abuse, Doping, and Deception on Nike's Elite Running Team* by Kara Goucher: "Really interesting and upsetting! But stories like these need to be told!"

A reader from Boston read *Our Migrant Souls* by Héctor Tobar: "It's not exactly true the subject of this book (which, according to the subtitle, is Race and the Meaning and Myths of "Latino") is new to me. It's more that within the broader subject of race, Latinidad is probably the identity I've read about least...and there's no one I'd rather hear from about it than Tobar."

A reader from Erving read *Edible Flowers* by Monica Nelson: "The book was interesting and I loved the many flower pictures. On page 17 they should have included foxglove in the plants not to eat - deadly. I personally would do more research on plants before using them as food. I grow many flowers but have never used them as a food source therefore it was a subject new to me in that I've never eaten them."

A reader from Dracut read *"You Just Need To Lose Weight" and 19 Other Myths About Fat People* by Aubrey Gordon: "Very illuminating about anti-fat bias in the US today. A good place to start with fat activism and combating the pervasive prejudices we all hold."

A reader from Amesbury read *The Life Changing Magic of Tidying Up* by Marie Kondo: "In the book the author instructed the reader to think about whether an item brought them joy when deciding whether to keep it or not. I thought it was an interesting way of purging."

A reader from Cambridge read *An Immense World: How Animal Senses Reveal the Hidden Realms Us* by Ed Yong: "I liked the dry humor and fascinating facts."

A reader from Cohasset read *Wager* by Grann: "Nonfiction that reads like an adventure tale!"

A reader from STOUGHTON read *Storm in a Teacup: the Physics of Everyday Life* by Helen Czerski: "A great, easy to read book about physics and how it affects the smallest things in the universe to the largest."

A reader from Marriottsville read *Louisa* by Louisa Thomas: "Wonderful biography of the wife of the second Adams to become President of the US. I had never known anything about this remarkable lady and it was of great interest to me to read not only about her but about how she navigated a deeply close marriage often times tempestuous, and how she came into her own and impacted American history."

A reader from Bourne read *Lethal Tides* by Catherine Muesebeck: "I learned about a local scientist that became the first navy oceanographer- Mary Sears. She and her team provided the navy with crucial details about tides, coral reefs, and other oceanic elements that were a matter of life and death in the pacific theater during WW2. She garnered respect from the officers in an age when women weren't respected or even represented as scientists. This is an excellent book and is a reminder of how far we've come."

A reader from Hudson read *The Genius of Birds* by Jennifer Ackerman: "If you want to go from birdwatching to "birding", that is getting to know more about the physical nature and adaptability of this species, this is the book for you. It is packed full of fascinating facts and research."

A reader from Salem read *Delusions of Gender* by Cordelia Fine, PHD: "A very good book going into neurosexism and how neuroscience is still too early for any real distinctions to be made, especially when it comes to the 'differences between male and female brains', of which there is no actual correlation that can be made, despite pop science saying there is."

A reader from Worcester read *Keats: A Brief life in Nine Poems and One Epitaph* by Lucastra Miller: "Because this subject was entirely new to me -- the poet, the period, even poetry itself -- I didn't always have enough of a background to thoroughly understand everything (references to other poets and or poems, for instance), but I enjoyed reading Keats' poems, and also enjoyed reading about his life."

A reader from Harwich read *Beaver land, how one weird rodent made America* by Leila Philip: "Amazing story of the central role beavers played in the early days of this country, their almost extinction, and their recovery in modern times."

A reader from Amherst read *Half American: The Epic Story of African Americans Fighting World War II at Home and Abroad* by Matthew F. Delmont: "Great book. The 'greatest generation' myth is incomplete at best."

A reader from WAKEFIELD read *The Soul of an Octopus* by Sy Montgomery: "Inspired by the novel "Remarkably Bright Creatures" by Shelby Van Pelt, I wanted to learn more about the intelligence (?) or 'consciousness' of octopuses. And I learned that you can't make a Latin plural (octopi would be wrong) with a word with Greek origins. The world is full of wondrous things!"

A reader from Melrose read *The Climate Book: The Facts and the Solutions* by Greta Thunberg: "A very impressive primer on the facts and the science of climate change. Strongly supports the argument, or fact really, that we are way behind in this struggle!"

A reader from Attleboro read *STOLEN YOUTH: How Radicals Are Erasing Innocence and Indoctrinating a Generation* by Bethany Mandel & Karol Markowitz: "A well-documented "must read" revealing what the Left, library, education, and medical organizations are doing to brainwash and recruit the youngest children to their Woke/transgender/LGBTQ+ agenda, thereby robbing a generation of their mental and physical health and rendering them dependent on progressive government."

A reader from Worcester read *Grandma Gatewood's Walk* by Ben Montgomeey: "A truly inspiring story of a woman, who hiked many trails and was not afraid to try."

A reader from STONEHAM read *River of the Gods: Genius, Courage and Betrayal in the Search for the Source of the Nile* by Candice Millard: "This was a fascinating book about Victorian explorers searching for the source of the White Nile."

A reader from Auburn read *Why We Swim* by Bonnie Tsui: "I love the water and was intrigued to read this book. It did not disappoint. The Authors knowledge and love for the water was so relatable. The historical stories were so interesting and really sparked something in me."

A reader from Kingston read *The Fire Next Time* by James Baldwin: "This book consists of two essays about race relations and the Black experience in the 1960s. Baldwin covers an array of emotions including anger, fear, and hope. The book left me with a bleak feeling, not just for what things were like then, but for the way things are now."

A reader from Worcester read *Beaverland* by Leila Philip: "Great book. I learned so much about how beavers add water to our environment. They are so necessary now with droughts and wild fires."

A reader from Attleboro read *Quiet* by Susan Cain: "Very readable and insightful look into the world of introverts. Loved how the author validated all of the positive aspects about being an introvert."

A reader from East Falmouth read *In Love* by Amy Bloom: "It was heart wrenching account of watching a spouse slide into alzheimers."

A reader from East Falmouth read *Shucked* by Erin Byers Murray: "Good story about a women challenging herself to change her life for a year and learn about New England oyster farming."

A reader from Franklin read *Taste* by Stanley Tucci: "I love this book because in addition to hearing Tucci's stories and biography, he gives recipes on how to cook. Yum."

A reader from Essex read *Out Of Line* by Barbara Lynch: "Knowing nothing about the food industry, it was so interesting to learn how people worked to become successful chefs."

A reader from Brockton read *The Road Back to You* by Ian Morgan Cron & Suzanne Stabile: "Interesting explanations for how we interact with others."

A reader from Plainville read *Idiot Guide to Digital Photography* by Shawn Frederick: "I only ever take pictures with my phone camera but I have been considering getting a real camera. I want to travel more and have good quality pictures so I wanted to learn more about light exposure, lenses, and all that. I learned a lot and feel excited to start taking better pictures!"

A reader from Lee read *The Wisdom of Yoga* by Stephen Cope: "An easy to read exploration of Patanjali's Yoga Sutras."

A reader from North Bethesda read *Below the Edge of Darkness* by Edith Widder: "Remember growing up when everyone wanted to be a marine biologist? Why was that? Well, Dr. Widder is a marine biologist and this is said to be a memoir and it does speak of her expeditions and experiences but it's really an informative text about deep sea creatures and bioluminescence. It was interesting."

A reader from Malden read *Minor Feelings: An Asian American Reckoning* by Cathy Park Hong: "The author writes about her experience as a daughter of Korean immigrants and the racism she faced living in America, and how it's so entrenched in this country."

A reader from Melrose read *The Nazis of Copley Square* by Charles Gallagher: "What a shocking, disturbing book! I knew nothing about the Christian Front and the part that a priest, Father Moran, took in collaborating with a German, to disseminate such horrifying anti-semitism right here in Boston, as well as in New York and elsewhere. It is certainly nothing I learned in history class about the 30s and 40s in the US."

A reader from Brookline read *Things are never so bad that they can't get worse* by William Neuman: "This book describes the horrendous conditions in Venezuela both from an analytical and empathic perspective. The collapse of this oil-rich country is a sad story."

A reader from Brookline read *Good for a Girl* by Lauren Fleshman: "Really well written account into the life of a professional runner."

A reader from Weymouth read *The Johnstown Flood* by David McCullough: "A tragic story I will never forget."

A reader from Providence read *I Never Thought Of It That Way* by Mónica Guzmán: "I wish everyone would read this book! Easy to read and excellent advice on bridging the political divide!"

A reader from Boston read *Yankee Boyhood* by R.E. Gould: "All about growing up in Maine in the late 1800s."

A reader from Swansea read *Defiant* by Wade Hudson: "Wade Hudson, a writer of children's and YA books, presents his story of growing up in the Jim Crow South and his coming of age against the backdrop of the Civil Rights movement. This powerful memoir reveals the struggles, joys, love, inquisitiveness, and resilience it took to grow up Black in segregated America. It underscored his determination to fight for a better America."

A reader from AMHERST read *The soul of an Octopus* by Sy Montgomery: "Informative and touching, this book left me in awe of these magnificent creatures."

A reader from Salem read *The Red Parts* by Maggie Nelson: "Not only true crime, not only a cold case, not only a family story and a memoir, but a look at telling stories and never finding the truth (perhaps even if you were there)."

A reader from Belchertown read *Warmly Inscribed - The New England Forger and Other Book Tales* by Lawrence and Nancy Goldstone: "An interesting look at rare and antiquarian book selling and collecting, and the passion people have for these old books."

A reader from HAMPDEN read *The Reformation Study Bible* by RC Sproul General Editor: "Fascinating!"

A reader from Sandwich read *Killing the Legends* by Bill O'Reilly: "A SAD COMMENTARY ON THE ABUSE MANY CELEBRITIES UNDERGO BY PEOPLE WHO ARE SUPPOSED TO BE TAKING CARE OF THEM."

A reader from Conroe read *On the Origin of Time* by Thomas Hertog: "Most of it was over my head but I found I'm interested in black holes so I'll definitely be reading more about them!"

A reader from Weymouth read *Berlin 1936* by Oliver Hilmes: "The book tells of the sixteen days in August during the 1936 Olympics. It details the lengths that Germany went to manipulate some of the games results and how upset Adolf Hitler was with Jesse Owen's win of four gold medals. It was interesting to read about the propaganda that Germany produced to cover up the treatment of the Jewish people."

A reader from Easthampton read *Unmasking Autism: Discovering the New Faces of Neurodiversity* by Devon Price: "A practical, evidence-based, compassionate, inclusive, and validating guide for adults with autism and the people who know them (which is probably most if not all of us)."

A reader from Waltham read *Life Undercover: Coming of Age in the CIA* by Amaryllis Fox: “Engrossing. It’s hard to tell what may be a blurring of facts to protect secrets, but nevertheless a can’t-put-it-down kind of read.”

A reader from Reading read *GODS IN SHACKLES* by Sangita Iyer: “The book *GODS IN SHACKLES* tells about the elephants who are chained, exploited, and abused in India. The book is extremely sad and thought provoking.”

A reader from Reading read *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer: “This book is a lyrical, meditative collection of essays about the relationship between plants and people.”

A reader from Melrose read *2084: Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Humanity* by John C. Lennox: “An insightful work that does work through those difficult issues that may or may not arise from advancing Artificial Intelligence through the lens of Christianity. I thoroughly enjoyed reading about this fairly new topic that should make people think about technology a bit more.”

A reader from Santa Cruz read *Empire of the Summer Moon* by SC Gwynne: “Compelling story about Quanah Parker and the Comanches. Not knowing anything about these two subjects, I jumped right in. I was memorized from the beginning with Quanah’s story. And, of course, it was devastating to read how the native people were lied to and murdered by our government.”

A reader from Hopkinton read *Catch and Kill: Lies, Spies, and Conspiracy to Protect Predators* by Ronan Farrow: “There was so much to learn from Farrow’s reporting - coverups in the highest levels of television, media, journalism, etc. How women are not only not believed, they are “berated, criticized, and blamed.””

A reader from Springfield read *It’s Easier Than You Think-The Buddhist Way to Happiness* by Sylvia Boorstein: “This book is inspiring and provides an alternative approach to meeting life’s challenges. Humorous and easy to read.”

A reader from BEVERLY read *Rise of the Ultra Runners* by Adharanand Finn: “A certain arrogance from the author came through but it was still fun to read a little about multi-day ultras and some of their histories.”

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Becoming* by Michele Obama: “Interesting to have a glimpse into her upbringing and life in the White House.”

A reader from rockport read *Mountains Beyond Mountains* by Tracy Kidder: “Incredible story of Paul Farmer and his humanitarian work in Haiti and Peru..... the birth of partners in health.... so much more!”

A reader from Lowell read *The Wright Brothers* by David McCullough: “I enjoyed learning about the birth of aviation. I’ve read several books by McCullough, and I love how his writing captures your attention and does not read as a dry historical account. He delves deep into the psychology of what it meant for the Wright brothers to dedicate all of their time, money, and life in order to pursue their dream, despite the tremendous risks that went along with it. It’s quite astonishing that these men were so motivated and never gave up on their dream to fly.”

A reader from Townsend read *The teachers* by Alexander Robbins: “Very interesting and eye opening on real events in a classroom.”

A reader from Reading read *Predator: A Memoir, a Movie, an Obsession* by Ander Monson: "Fascinating personal memoir told through the lens of watching the 1987 action sci-fi film Predator for the 147th time."

A reader from MELROSE read *Horse* by Gerildine Brooks: "The true story of the greatest racing stallion in history."

A reader from Seekonk read *Under a White Sky* by Elizabeth Kolbert: ""This has been a book about people trying to solve problems created by people trying to solve problems." i was particularly intrigued with the section about the fish that had been brought from China to feed on vegetation affecting transportation and the problems caused by this solution."

A reader from Randolph read *The Shadow Docket* by Stephen Vladeck: "Fascinating look at how the workings of the Supreme Court have shifted in recent years to a less transparent, less accessible process."

A reader from Tewksbury read *stop overthinking: 23 techniques to relieve stress, stop negative spirals, declutter your mind, and focus on the present* by Nick Trenton: "Definitely a much needed reflection on mental health and strategies to be more than okay. I will be rereading this many times in the future."

A reader from Somerville read *The Big Thirst* by Charles Fishman: "This book was all about people's relationship with water, and why we should be using it differently. I got a little slogged down and wish it was more succinct, but mostly it was fascinating."

A reader from Yorba Linda read *A History of Jewish Connecticut* by Betty N Hoffman: "So much valuable information about the impact of early Jewish settlers. So surprised to see my great grandfather featured in the section on farms in Colchester!"

A reader from Southborough read *Disability Visibility* by edited by Alice Wong: "Helping me expand my understanding of the world. A "disability" can radically change one's experience and perspective."

A reader from South Yarmouth read *The unseen body : a doctor's journey through the hidden wonders of human anatomy* by Jonathan Reisman, M.D.: "It was really interesting and eye opening in many ways!"

A reader from East Sandwich read *Maybe You Should Talk to Someone* by Lori Gottlieb: "A great look into the mind and life of a therapist who is going through her own struggles."

A reader from Topsfield read *Feather Thief* by Kirk W. Johnson: "True crime without the gore. Natural history meets caper."

A reader from Monson read *Tom Bass: Black Horseman* by Bill Downey: "While I have loved horses since I can remember and know the topic fairly well, I have never heard of Tom Bass before. This biography of an ex-slave black man who overcame a lot of racial barriers by becoming one of the world's most renowned trainers was fascinating--I'm so glad I was able to get a copy of this rare book."

A reader from MELROSE read *Dolce Vita Confidential* by Shawn Levy: "Tons of fun, and a good explanation of how "la dolce vita" came about in postwar Italy."

A reader from West Falmouth read *Bisia & Isham, The Countess and the POW* by Toni Reavis: "Fascinating story about a Polish Countess and a US Prisoner of War in WWII who marry 11 days after

meeting on Valentine's Day 1945 in Poland. They did not speak each other's language and had a successful 63 year marriage."

A reader from Salem read *The Swedish Art of Aging Exuberantly* by Margareta Magnusson: "A joyful book about dying!"

A reader from Dracut read *The Anthropocene Reviewed: Essays on a Human-Centered Planet* by John Green: "This book dives into such random topics from Canada Geese to Monopoly to the Internet to sycamore trees, but ultimately, tugs at your humanity. I learned many new facts and loved how the author discussed how all these things impacted not only himself, but humans as a whole."

A reader from Lunenburg read *OCME: Life in America's Top Forensic Medical Center* by Bruce Goldfarb: "Very in-depth view at the work done at the office of the chief medical examiner in Maryland. Includes history, cases, and stories from employees."

A reader from Woods Hole read *All that moves us* by Jay Wellons: "Hopeful medical stories about seemingly impossible recoveries. Well written, engaging, startling."

A reader from Attleboro read *Constructing a nervous system* by Margo Jefferson: "It was very interesting to hear about so many women in history that made such a mark on all of us."

A reader from Amherst read *Regicide in the Family* by Sarah Dixwell Brown: "The author writes of her experiences learning about an ancestor who was one of a group in England who signed the Death Warrant of Charles I. It was an engaging combination of scholarly research and personal reflection, bringing a piece of English and American history to life."

A reader from Scituate read *Grace* by Cody Keenan: "An intimate view into the life of one of the top speechwriters for Pres. Obama and how together they crafted responses to expected national events as well as those unexpected and tragic. Obama excelled at first verbally capturing the essence of a democracy, leaving it up to Keenan to find the written words for the speech."

A reader from Beverly read *Crying in H Mart* by Michelle Zauner: "An interesting true story of a person who dealt with high expectations, disappointments, and feelings of not fitting in."

A reader from Hampden read *Making Space: Creating a Home Meditation Practice* by Thich Nhat Hanh: "Interesting and enlightening."

A reader from Somerville read *Where Tapirs and Jaguars Once Roamed* by Jack Ewing: "Interesting dive into the Southwestern area of Costa Rica."

A reader from Weymouth read *Reading & Writing Japanese* by Sakade Henshall Seeley de Groot: "The book was comprehensive as to how to write the Japanese writing characters. I learned how to write the numbers 1-10 in Japanese."

A reader from Braintree read *Beekeeping for Dummies* by Howland Blackiston: "Great book to learn the basics and beyond on how to start a bee colony in your backyard."

A reader from Wakefield read *Keep Sharp* by Sanjay Gupta: "There were some good takeaways. But it all could have been said in half the pages. It is an interesting topic and I'm glad I read it."

A reader from Hanson read *Killer of the Flower Moon* by David Grann: “The story exposes the tragedy of the Osage Family and the birth of the FBI. I would of prefer more of a narrative format about the Osage family and lifestyle. This book read more like a history book with so many dates and names.”

A reader from Cambridge read *Poverty, by America* by Matthew Desmond: “Opened my eyes to the reasons why poverty is such an ongoing problem in our country —and the possible solutions to this infuriating and heartbreaking problem.”

A reader from Harwich read *Mauve* by Simon Garfield: “I think I bought this book years ago because of the title, but it was the challenge that inspired me to read it. It’s about chemistry (a subject I know almost nothing about) and the invention of dyes which have impacted many fields, including medicine.”

A reader from Boston read *An Immense World* by Ed Yong: “This book was fantastic. Got into lots of details but very eye opening about the way different animals perceived the world.”

A reader from Yarmouth read *More Numbers Every Day:How data, statistics and figures control our lives and how to set ourselves free* by bjornsen: “Frightening new insights tempered with practical advice.”

A reader from Hampden read *Earthing* by Clinton Ober: “Very interesting. I learned a lot.”

A reader from Plainville read *The Power of Trees* by Peter Wohlleben: “Fascinating! I will definitely go back and read his first book.”

A reader from Medford read *Bonk* by Mary Roach: “I’ve been wanting to read a book by Mary Roach for ages and really enjoyed this one. She shares very intriguing and unusual information with a fun dose of humor. I learned a lot about human and animal behavior!”

A reader from Salem read *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown: “This is about the crew that won gold at the 1936 Olympics. Although I knew the outcome of the race, I was still on the edge of my seat while reading about it. I chose this book because my son just started rowing. The details are at times, but a great, well researched story!”

A reader from Palmer read *spare* by Prince Harry: “Not impressed.”

A reader from middleboro read *garden birds* by terence linsey: “Facts and details about birds that can be seen in everyday life. The descriptions and pictures of the birds are great. I can now name six birds that are in my yard every year. love this little book.”

A reader from Beverly read *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson: “An interesting account of hiking the Appalachian trail with lots of history about it.”

A reader from Woods Hole read *The Divorce* by Cesar Aira: “Mind boggling how the whole book is narrated with intriguing stories. But if you think of time in the book, the whole book is an event of water splash on a person, a mere span of a few seconds.”

A reader from Beverly read *An Indigenous Peoples History of the United States* by Roxanne Dunbar-O: “This is an important book, telling the history that few inhabitants of this country are truly aware of.”

A reader from Brookline read *Saving Us* by Katherine Hayhoe: “In addition to great information, her main point—that the best thing we can do for climate change is to talk about it—was really tangibly backed up and feels like an important step!”

A reader from Amherst read *America's Arab Nationalist: From the Ottoman Revolution to the Rise of Hitler* by Aaron Berman: "I enjoyed reading this book and learned a lot. It is a nuanced portrayal of a less well-known period of middle eastern history, from the end of the Ottoman Empire to the rise of Hitler. Mr. Berman does a good job of depicting the complex views and actions of several well drawn characters including Howard Bliss and Charles Crane."

A reader from Northampton read *Latinx* by Paola Ramos: "Perhaps the most interesting part was reading a book, originally written in English (by a bilingual author) and translated into Spanish (by a different person), about Latinx identity in the USA. Appreciated the author's insights as to how Latinx identity intersects with various other characteristics: sexual orientation and gender identity, urban/rural experience, immigration status, politics (which greatly differs depending on region and which subset of Latinx populations are in question), religious affiliations, etc."

A reader from Sandwich read *Mustache Cups* by G. Erardi & P. Peck: "This book, which has over 150 pages of colored photos, is so much more than just the history and usage of mustache cups. Depicted are exquisite cups and sets made by Irish Belleek, Meissen, Dresden, & Royal Crown Derby. Also several pages showing the marks & backstamps. Hercule Poirot uses some of the accessories depicted."

A reader from Elkins read *Vanilla: Travels In Search of the Ice Cream Orchid* by Tim Ecott: "I thought this was a fascinating account of the origins of Vanilla and of its unique place in the modern food industry."

A reader from East Taunton read *Computational Thinking* by Peter, Jay, Denning, and Matti Tedre: "This was a thoughtful presentation of Computational Thinking for the non-specialist. It traces CT from the ancient world to the present."

A reader from Belchertown read *Safe Passage* by James F. Lee: "A bit dry at times this book explored the difficult journey of civilians to the States after the Pearl Harbor attack. I was struck by the government bureaucracy and ultimately cooperation of all the parties involved."

A reader from Uxbridge read *Myth America: Historians Take on the Biggest Legends and Lies About Our Past* by Kevin Kruse and Julian Zelizer: "I'm still reading it, but highly recommend it for the insights gained into America's vision of itself. America First was older than I realized, American exceptionalism beliefs have a cost, America's truth about immigration...."

A reader from Stoneham read *A Journal of the Last Voyage Perform'd by Monsr. de la Sale, To the Gulph of Mexico, To find out the Mouth of the Mississippi River* by Henri Joutel: "The recounting of French explorers in 17th century North America, and the author's descriptions of the vast plains of the south, native customs, menacing wildlife such as alligators and rattlesnakes, and real attempts at mutiny all make for a very interesting read."

A reader from Sunderland read *The Swedish Art of Aging Exuberantly* by Margareta Magnusson: "I don't usually care for autobiography. But I liked this-- and it gave me some interesting things to think about."

A reader from Attleboro read *Finding Me* by Viola Davis: "I didn't know much about Viola's life or how she got into acting. This was a heartbreaking account of her life and how she became the woman she is today!"

A reader from Forestdale read *Dear Dolly* by Dolly Alderton: "It was interesting to hear about all kinds of different problems people are dealing with. I liked the authors response to almost all of them as well."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Blue: In Search of Nature's Rarest Color* by Kai Kupferschmid: "I don't really take too much time to think of colors beyond that they exist, so this was a relatively fascinating look at a color that is pretty common in our world. The author takes us through a thorough investigation of the historical roots of the color blue in the natural world--I'd really recommend this one."

A reader from West Yarmouth read *Spare* by Prince Harry: "Very enlightening! I give Harry credit for writing this book."

A reader from Salem read *Barracoön* by Zola neale huston: "Fascinating subject. I found I had difficulty reading and understanding the untranslated words."

A reader from Abington read *The Great Escape* by Saket Soni: "Fantastic. Shocking. Awful that this is happening in America in the 21st century. A very compelling read. Just like the cover says: Paced like a thriller...Riveting."

A reader from Melrose read *The Interpreter's Daughter* by Teresa Lim: "I had no idea of the horrific happenings in Singapore during WWII, when Japan invaded what is now Malaysia. This book was also rich in the Chinese culture - their rules for people, i.e. spinster women, like Fanny, could take a vow of celibacy and promise never to marry, their reference for ancestor worship, whereby each person has a wooden tablet with their name on it which the family kept on the altar inside of their home, so the ancestor would not be forgotten."

A reader from Rochester read *Bathsheba Spooner: A Revolutionary Murder Conspiracy* by Andrew Noone: "Strange and fascinating story of the first woman to be executed in America following the Declaration of Independence, alongside one American and two British soldiers who were her lovers and conspired with her to murder her husband. Worth reading as a piece of Massachusetts history I never otherwise would have known!"

A reader from Wilmington read *The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch: "This book felt a bit all over the place at times (understandably given the context in which this was written), but there are some nice words of wisdom in there. It sounds like Randy was an inspiring teacher and I appreciate how he wanted to leave a legacy for his children."

A reader from Plymouth read *The Daughter of Ausowitz* by Tova Freidman: "Incredible."

A reader from Atkinson read *Omnivore's Dilemma* by Michael Pollan: "Fascinating book about farming and the food industry. This book really made me think about the food I am putting in my body and where it came from."

A reader from Taunton read *The Gentle Art of Swedish Death Cleaning* by Margareta Magnusson: "I am getting older and more aware of all the "stuff" I have accumulated...important to me, but not necessarily to my children! This is NOT a morbid book! Swedish death cleaning means removing unnecessary things to make your home orderly as you become older. As the author says..."a way to help make your loved ones memories of you nice-instead of awful.""

A reader from Conway read *Nature's Best Hope* by Douglas W. Tallamy: "This book was an easy read and had many ideas about how individuals can work to help nature recover from years of humans working to make their yards look fabulous by planting non-native species, resulting in a decline in native flora and fauna. Shrink your lawn, plant an oak tree, some asters and milkweed!"

A reader from Randolph read *A Lucky Child* by Thomas Buergenthal: "A book written by an adult that lived, as a child, through imprisonment in several concentration camps during the holocaust. The non-dramatic and humble presentation of the authors memories about that inhumane time-touched me."

A reader from Beverly read *Trust the Plan: The Rise of QAnon and the Conspiracy that Unhinged America* by Will Sommer: "Trust the Plan is an excellent book, well reported and fascinating throughout. Will Sommer brings you along on a rollercoaster ride through conspiracy and how some politicians are willing to play along to get ahead, and deftly shows how this is damaging our country."

A reader from Bolton read *The Order of Time* by Carlo Rovelli: "Opened up some new ideas about time, it's definition, and the implications for causality."

A reader from Salem read *The Lost Family* by Libby Copeland: "I found the discussion of direct to consumer DNA testing very interesting. I had always wanted to test myself; now I'm not so sure. I'm not sure I want to find out about family secrets (if there are any)."

A reader from Sandwich read *Whore of New York* by Liara Roux: "I was really excited to read a personal take and deep dive on the politics of sex work and capitalism, but unfortunately, this book was lacking in so many ways. I found the author's voice to be self-serving and the book was repetitive without a clear throughline -- it could've used a few more rounds of editing."

A reader from Melrose read *Dinner in One*: by Melissa Clark: "A great resource for preparing one pot meals."

A reader from Somerville read *The Big Thirst* by Charles Fishman: "This book is all about the human relationship with water, how we use water, and how we should and should not be using it. I struggle with nonfiction and got a bit slogged down in the middle, but all in all it was pretty fascinating."

A reader from Haverhill read *Cultish: The Language of Fanaticism* by Amanda Montell: "I found this book really interesting; I think anything around cults captures our collective interest. I highly recommend. Makes you think about groups you've been involved in."

A reader from Taunton read *American Eclipse* by David Baron: "This book taught me about the 19th century astronomers and their quest to photograph and document solar eclipses."

A reader from Agawam read *Invisible Women: Data Bias in a World Designed for Men* by Caroline Criado Pérez: "I found this book extremely enlightening because it not only opened my eyes to how women are disenfranchised in society due to lack of data/use of data on gender in various areas, but it also put into words things that I've experienced my entire life as someone who identifies as a woman. I think this is a book that everyone should read, regardless of their gender identity!"

A reader from Attleboro read *A Fever in the Heartland* by Timothy Egan: "I had no idea how powerful and pervasive the KKK was in the United States in the 1920's. This read like a true crime novel, not a history book and it was fascinating! So many parallels to today's hateful rhetoric, anger and political chaos."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Becoming* by Michelle Obama: "While I don't usually enjoy biographies, I absolutely loved this book which was extremely well written, very interesting and certainly inspirational to young women everywhere ---and older women like me as well. I have since received her latest book which I have yet to read but am looking forward to reading."

A reader from Sutton read *Musicophilia: Tales of Music and the Brain* by Oliver Sacks: "This was a reread for me, prompted by the additional advances that have been made since Dr. Sacks wrote this fascinating book. Humankind is indebted to the late neuropsychiatrist for doing the work to help us understand the effect that music has on our brains. As a student of psychology, I have been drawn to all of his books. As a musician, this particular book is even more meaningful to me."

A reader from Boston read *In Love: A Memoir of Love and Loss* by Amy Bloom: "A heartbreaking, haunting yet hopeful memoir that portrays the story of supporting a spouse through the unbearable loss of assisted suicide."

A reader from Leominster read *Finding Ultra* by Rich Roll: "Roll shares his journey to become an athlete in middle age, after a health scare. His story is inspiring and informative. He challenges you to reevaluate your situation and teaches us that change is sometimes slow, but ultimately possible."

A reader from Weymouth read *Starry Messenger Cosmic Perspectives on Civilization* by Neil deGrasse Tyson: "I learned that the laws of biology, chemistry, and physics remain the same. What we 'feel' to be true, is not necessarily so. A fascinating book, I highly recommend it."

A reader from West Yarmouth read *Homicide at Rough Point* by Peter Lance: "Was a bit disappointed with this book as author spent a great deal focusing on other events that took place in Newport RI and wasn't until last four chapters that he went into detail on investigation of the homicide. Some of the history and stories of Newport was interesting to read but felt irrelevant to the main storyline."

A reader from Wilmington read *Twenty-One Steps* by Jeff Gottesfeld: "I like how it taught about wars that I didn't know about. It is crazy that there are soldiers that guard this tomb 24 hours a day no matter what the weather is."

A reader from Springfield read *Hell No, We Won't Go!: Resisting the Draft During the Vietnam War* by Sherry Gershon Gottlieb: "A compelling collection of first-hand accounts of draft-dodgers during the Vietnam war. I particularly appreciated the anecdote in which the subject was mauled by a leopard at work and figured he'd use it to avoid the draft."

A reader from East Taunton read *The Little Book of Lykke* by Meik Wiking: "An interesting viewpoint on how other countries do things. Somewhat depressing to read because the US will never be this way."

A reader from Worcester read *Practically Pagan. An alternative guide to Planet Friendly Living* by Mabh Savage: "This book was insightful and gave me new ideas on how to be more environmentally friendly."

A reader from Northampton read *Chaos: Charles Manson, the CIA, and the Secret History of the Sixties* by Tom O'Neill and Dan Piepenbring: "I am not usually much into "secret histories" as they usually feel like conspiracy theories, but as a true crime lover I gave the book a shot. It is extremely well researched and well written but at times felt a little too speculative."

A reader from North Reading read *A Bookshop In Berlin* by Françoise Frenkel: "I knew that France was occupied during World War II but did not know that there were concentration camps in France, or really the experiences and plight of the French people and the refugees who came there in hopes of escape. This was very informative, and I especially enjoyed the stories of non-Jewish French people resisting and helping their Jewish neighbors. I wish I could find out more about Frenkel's later life, but much of the rest of her story seems to have been lost in time."

A reader from WAKEFIELD read *Experiencing Olmsted* by Charles Birnbaum: "A beautiful book w/ photographs talking about the amazing career of Olmsted. Truly a pioneer!"

A reader from Lowell read *Cultish: The Language of Fanaticism* by Amanda Montell: "I had higher expectations because I listen to this authors podcast. All in all a good read but nothing special."

A reader from Seekonk read *The Woman They Could Not Silence* by Kate Moore: "This book was about a woman, Elizabeth Packard, that I had never heard of and her fight as she was committed to an insane asylum by her husband in the 1800s. She also went on to fight for the rights of women as well as those unfairly committed."

A reader from Worcester read *The Great Stewardess Rebellion: How Women Launched a Workplace Revolution at 30,000 Feet* by Nell McShane Wulfhart: "This book was SO illuminating! I learned so much about flight attendants and their struggle to be treated as the professionals they are that I hadn't even considered prior to reading this book. I would highly recommend it to anyone who is interested in the US labor movement, second wave feminism, and/or the history of aviation."

A reader from Winthrop read *Monsters: A Fan's Dilemma* by Claire Dederer: "An incredibly nuanced exploration on how we appreciate and experience art in the "Cancel Culture" era."

A reader from READING read *The Soul of an Octopus* by Sy Montgomery: "I have been wanting to read this book for years and I'm glad I did. Learning so many interesting facts about this wondrous creature in a conversational way has been very rewarding."

A reader from Rochester read *The Rarest Blue* by Baruch Sterman: "This is a spellbinding story of a sacred blue dye that changed the course of ancient history. Regarded among antiquity's most desirable commodities, tekhelet commanded a price many times that of gold. Discovered by the Minoans, stolen by the Phoenicians and revered by Roman emperors; Jews risked their lives to wear a single tekhelet dyed thread. Then with the dissolution of the Roman Empire, the color vanished. This engagingly written detective story of biblical blue is one of science, religion, craft and history."

A reader from Holden read *Will In the World* by Greenblatt, Stephen: "The book I read this month was a biography about the life of William Shakespeare. After reading his sonnets last month, I realized I knew essentially nothing about him as a person. This book combined his works with his background in an interesting and readable way."

A reader from Thorndike read *One Town & Seven Railroads* by Palmer Public Library Railroad Advisory Board: "A great comprehensive history of Palmer railroads and industry. One of a kind history of The Town of Seven Railroads."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Colonel Wilkinson's Diary* by Joe H. Vaughan: "Both Colonel Wilkinson and my grandfather served as doctors in France during WWI. I chose this book hoping to hear about experiences both men may have shared."

A reader from Montague read *Papyrus: The Invention of Books in the Ancient World* by Irene Vallejo: "Enjoyed very much, read slowly to savor it. Much about classic literature and early libraries in Greece and Rome. Weaves together history with observations about the importance of books then and now."

A reader from Methuen read *The Life Cycle of a Crayfish* by Bobbie Kalman: "This book was a helpful introduction to the new crayfish that arrived in my classroom this week as part of an end of year science observation."

A reader from Erving read *The Little Book of Whittling* by Chris Lubkemann: "Even if you didn't want to learn to whittle, the book is delightful to read. The author shows several projects to whittle. He also adds helpful hints on other subjects, e.g. camping, making s'mores, popular national parks, etc. it's a fun read, and I enjoyed trying my hand at VERY movie whittling."

A reader from Attleboro read *Elton: The Biography* by David Buckley: "Not as expected and a bit outdated."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *The great hurricane 1938* by Cherie burns: "I can't imagine what hurricane left behind. I didn't know that a hurricane was so close to us."

A reader from Woods Hole read *Dove* by Robin Lee Graham: "Good book overall. A combination "coming of age" book and sailing alone around the world. I definitely learned about sailing - something I had very little knowledge of. But, there was also so much more: perserverance, determination, emotions. The story (true) takes place in the late 60's. I highly recommend this for any young (high school) people not sure of what they want to do."

A reader from Stoneham read *Woman's Lore: 4,000 Years of Sirens, Serpents and Succubi* by Sarah Clegg: "I am far from done with this book but I find it fascinating. I heard the author on a podcast, The Ancients: Lillith: Mesopotamian Demoneess and I was hooked! Clegg's enthusiasm for her subject is evident in her writing. It's about mythology, feminism, ancient history and so much more. Cannot wait to finish it!"

A reader from East Sandwich read *Scotch Whisky, a Liquid History* by Charles Maclean: "While reading about Scotch Whisky is enlightening, sipping it is much more pleasurable!!!"

A reader from fitchburg read *Murder is Forever / Murder Interrupted* by james patterson: "A true crime book that is extremely interesting. It is a story of a rich financier that is involved in a murder for hire ... which goes wrong."

A reader from Bolton read *Tears of Salt* by Puerto Bartolo: "This is a compelling memoir about a doctors experience treating immigrants in Italy. I wish it had gone into more detail about his stories."

A reader from Hampden read *irresistible knits sweaters for men, women and teens* by Kirsten Cowan: "Looking for simple knitting pattern to improve my colorwork for a summer project. Many wonderful patterns and hopefully I can handle the one I chose."

A reader from Beverly read *Fuzz* by Mary Roach: "It was an entertaining read about when 'Nature Breaks The Law' but I didn't care for some of the deep dives into mouse traps, etc... Overall I enjoyed her writing style and learned a few things."

A reader from Somerville read *Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland* by Patrick Radden Keefe: "Thrilling, informative, and heartbreaking. An amazing book!"

A reader from Franklin read *The LEGO Story: How a Little Toy Sparked the World's Imagination* by Jens Anderson: "This book was an incredibly fun look at branding. It also took a thoughtful look at "family

business" and how that influences decisions now and for generations to come. A truly fascinating read for any LEGO enthusiast or those with an interest in branding."

A reader from Hadley read *When Books Went to War* by Molly Guptill Manning: "While books themselves are not new information for me, how mass market paperbacks became so prevalent absolutely was: books as portable entertainment and respite, as an antidote to book-banning, as an instrument for disseminating information and counteracting misinformation. Reading this brought me closer to older family members who'd experienced WW2, both as refugees and as members of the armed forces. Fascinating!"

A reader from Rochester read *Nuking the Moon* by Vince Haughton: "This was an enlightening and hilarious collection of plans of the U. S. government or CIA that never left the drawing board. The author, curator of the International Spy Museum, relates each mission with good background info and a snarky sense of humor. Cats with implanted transmitters, creating a tsunami with nuclear bombs, nuking the moon to impress the Russians when they see the mushroom cloud there...?! Etc."

A reader from Worcester read *How the Mountains Grew* by John Dvorak: "I've enjoyed reading theoretical and geological speculation and investigation beyond the theory of plate tectonics by way of additional dynamics from unexplained rock formations and unanswered questions about the earth's life. Concludes with concern for Anthropocene present and future. A good index shows the author's attention to location and allows re-tracing special place attachments, including for myself family northern Midwest and southern Appalachian. A strong sense of narrative carries the technical for those of us who aren't scientists."

A reader from Tewksbury read *Longitude* by Dava Sobel: "Very interesting account of the development of chronometers to be able to calculate one's longitudinal position."

A reader from Blackstone read *White Mountains State* by Keith Gentili: "A fun book about the accomplishments and trials of the author hiking the 48 peaks of the White Mountains of New Hampshire. The author's enthusiasm jumps right off the page!"

A reader from Braintree read *Queer Ducks (and Other Animals)* by Eliot Schrefer with Joel Fromkin: "Very insightful and empowering."

A reader from Melrose read *The Little Book of Hygge* by Meik Wiking: "I loved it, great ideas!"

A reader from Sandwich read *Rough Sleepers* by Tracy Kidder: "Amazing book. Loved how pt centered Jim was."

A reader from Saugus read *Passion for Golf* by R Merullo: "Very interesting and inspiring for a new golfer."

A reader from Worcester read *The Miracle of the Music Man* by Mark Cabaniss: "Cabaniss does a wonderful job researching the story behind the creation of the great American musical, "The Music Man" by Meredith Willson. It is hard to believe how few believed in this show when it was first conceived. A great book for any lover of musical theatre."

A reader from Turners Falls read *Rough Sleepers* by Tracy Kidder: "It was very interesting to read about the homeless, and this doctor's passion for their care. So much work to be done here."

A reader from YARMOUTH PORT read *The Pirates Wife* by Daphne Palmer Geanacppoulos: "This book tells the story of Sarah Kidd the wife of Captain Kidd. I met the author recently in Yarmouth where she spoke at the local library. Captain Kidd started out working for the Crown as a privateer and then crossed the line and became a pirate. Sarah supported him in his endeavors."

A reader from SOUTH YARMOUTH read *About Time: A History of Civilization in Twelve Clocks* by David Rooney: "Once I stopped reading it like a textbook (no test after!), I did enjoy the information and the stories related about the development of clocks and time-keeping through the ages and the impact on and importance to societies around the world. What a very interesting way to think about civilization!"

A reader from Melrose read *Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania* by Erik Larson: "An unexpected page-turner! I learned so much about submarines, large ships, and military strategy, all while being riveted by the human story."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Singing and Dancing are the Voice of the Law: a Commentary on Hakuin's "Song of Zazen"* by Bussho Lahn: "This book is very thought provoking. I feel like this is something I really want to explore further."

A reader from Braintree read *Smile* by Ruhl: "Interesting and heartbreaking memoir of a woman who developed Bell's Palsy after giving birth."

A reader from Weston read *Tsunamis-Earth in action* by Mari Schuh: "I thought the book was very educational. It gave me a deeper understanding of why tsunamis happen."

A reader from Franklin read *How to Be a Stoic* by Massimo Pigliucci: "This was an easy-to-digest introduction to Stoic philosophy that piqued my interest in reading works by the Stoic philosophers themselves."

A reader from Weston read *Birds A to Z* by Chris G. Earley: "When I read this book, I learned there are a lot of cool birds. The pictures were beautiful."

A reader from Tewksbury read *The Milkweed Lands* by Eric Lee-Mäder: "It was so interesting learning about the milkweed plant, and the illustrations were beautiful."

A reader from Hampden read *Springfield-350 Years: A Pictorial History* by Donald J. D'Amato: "Although I've spent quite a lot of time in Springfield, MA. I knew little of the City's history. Springfield - 350 years enabled me to fill that gap in my knowledge of Springfield, The well written essays as well the large number of pictures gave me a very good idea of what makes the City the place that became."

A reader from Scituate read *the little book of Japanese living* by Yutaka Yazawa: "Fascinating introduction to Japan. The book begins with the geography and provides a map to refer to as one reads. Although only one or two pages are devoted to each of the topics which include the samurai, the tea ceremony, Japanese words which have no direct translation, family life, etc they give a vivid description of Japan and reading this book has motivated me to continue learning about this fascinating country."

A reader from Amherst read *The Weather Detective* by Peter Wohlleben: "Less Meteorology, more a Natural History of gardens and their bird and critter inhabitants. The author is in Germany, so many of his observations need to be extrapolated for Eastern North America."

A reader from Amherst read *Hard Core Poor* by Kelly Sangree: “The subtitle is “a book on extreme thrift.” Looking at money this way really is new to me; both bracing and alarming.”

A reader from Springfield read *Sorry, Sorry, Sorry: The Case for Good Apologies* by Marjorie Ingall and Susan McCarthy: “In a look at why it's so hard to apologize and what makes a good apology, this book makes one think about what can one do give a good apology and why is it important. As a person who apologizes for everything it make me think about why and what is more important in the apology the act or the possible forgiveness.”

A reader from Fitchburg read *Spare* by Prince Harry: “An eye opening look into the royal family told from Prince Harry’s perspective. I very much enjoyed hearing his story in his own words from the the loss of loved ones, strained relationships, and meeting his soulmate. I would highly recommend this book to everyone!”

A reader from Dracut read *The Intimate City* by Michael Kimmelman: “The book was created by a bunch of photographers, historians, architects, etc who took to the streets of New York City when COVID shutdown began. It was interesting to see the details of the city with nearly empty streets.”

A reader from Beverly read *How We Heal: Uncover Your Power and Set Yourself Free* by Alexandra Elle: “Wanted to learn about emotional healing, ways other women have healed themselves, how they have moved through their lives. My eyes were opened to giving myself more grace, setting boundaries, and I found new skills to self-assess and help heal myself.”

A reader from PLYMOUTH read *The Confidante* by Christopher Gorham: “I tend to favor nature and science nonfiction over history so that was my intentional challenge this time. This book brought a period of history and a relatively unknown, amazing woman to life! She succeeded in so many areas of politics and society in a time when women (especially an immigrant) didn't have much credibility and it's a story more people should know.”

A reader from Lynnfield read *Ejaculate Responsibly: A Whole New Way to Think About Abortion* by Gabrielle Stanley Blair: “A brief and informative quote: “We've put the burden of pregnancy prevention on the person who is fertile for 24 hours a month, instead of the person who is fertile 24 hours a day, every day of their life.””

A reader from Wilmington read *SPARE* by Prince Harry: “This book taught me to never assume you know something about someone and never to take people for granted. Don't believe everything you read or hear. I adored reading this book and my heart hurts terribly for what Prince Harry and his family endured due to the agenda of greedy, selfish people. I'm finishing this book on Memorial Day weekend in America but wish to thank Harry for his unselfish service to his own country in a very difficult war.”

A reader from Barnstable read *Invisible Wounds: Interviews with American Vets* by Jess Ruliffson: “A group of people I know so little about. I learned a lot and have been inspired to read more on this topic. There is so much happening in our name that we can forget about as we go about our daily life. I feel shame for my lack of awareness.”

A reader from Stanford read *Orphan Train* by Peggy Caravantes: “Until reading this book, I was unaware of the problems that existed with orphan and homeless children during that time period of our country. Over a period of 75 years, 120,000 children were transported to the midwest mostly out of New York

City beginning in 1839 . Many of these children were not orphans but were living on the streets due to a variety of family issues. Charles Loring Brace founded the Childrens Aid Society to address this issue.”

A reader from fitchburg read *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer: “Recommended by several of my co-workers, I found this to be interesting and informative. Read by the author it was pleasant to listen to and thought provoking.”

A reader from Scituate read *Camping for Dummies* by Michael Hodgson: “A stretch for me.”

A reader from Hudson read *I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai: “I Am Malala allows readers a glimpse into the sweeping landscapes, cultural traditions, and everyday lives of Muslims living in Pakistan during recent decades under Taliban influence. The author demonstrates passion for her homeland and is an inspiring advocate of education for all. The history of Pakistan, the relationship between the government, military, Taliban, and ordinary citizens was insightful.”

A reader from Wakefield read *The Feather Thief: Beauty, Obsession, and the Natural History Heist of the Century* by Kirk Wallace Johnson: “I liked the first half, which was part history, part true crime, but when the second half turned into a memoir about the author’s experience writing the book I was far less interested. I did learn a lot about the feather underground that I didn’t know before!”

A reader from Sandwich read *Self Compassion* by Kristin Neff: “A great insight into learning how we can have compassion for ourselves. A good book with exercises and lots of insight on the subject.”

A reader from Rockland read *A Message from Ukraine* by Volodymyr Zelensky: “I was so impressed and moved by this book of speeches by President Zelensky. His messages are powerful, heartfelt, and honest as he addresses the people of Ukraine and the rest of the world.”

A reader from Fitchburg read *Say Nothing* by Patrick Radden Keefe: “I did not know anything about the IRA before reading this. It was very eye opening.”

A reader from Arlington read *I’m Glad My Mom Died* by Jennette McCurdy: “This was a difficult read because of the author’s unhappy childhood. It was a good read however, because the author was able to get assistance for some of the roadblocks she’s faced.”

A reader from Norton read *The Boys In the Boat* by Daniel James Brown: “A fascinating read about the University of Washington rowing program leading up to the Olympics of 1936 in Berlin (as Hitler oversees construction of an Olympic village while showcasing Naziism). The author focuses on one University of Washington rower, Joe Rantz, and all he had to overcome from childhood on to make the elite team of rowers heading to the 1936 Olympics. Truly inspiring!”

A reader from Belchertown read *What I Talk About When I Talk About Running* by Haruki Murakami: “Although I’m not sure I agree with everything Murakami says about how important talent is to writing, this memoir was incredibly raw, honest, and stark. I already loved Murakami as a writer from Norwegian Wood, but I will be reading more of his work with a new perspective. His writing flows like water.”

A reader from Shrewsbury read *A Curious History of Sex* by Kate Lister: “Fascinating! A topic not much publicly discussed, but I learned a lot and chuckled more than I expected to.”

A reader from Quincy read *Tales of Polynesia* by Yiling Changues: “Interesting view of how passed down stories shaped Polynesian culture and life.”

A reader from Lowell read *Gut Renovation* by Roshini Raj, MD: "I learned a lot about the gut's microbiome and how important it is to our overall health. I particularly liked that Dr.Raj not only explained what the microbiome is and why it's important, but also practical ways to incorporate her advice to keep it happy. This is an informative book and Dr.Raj's writing style makes it easy and fun to read."

A reader from Gill read *Number One is Walking* by Steve Martin: "Interesting. Very easy to read. Entertaining."

A reader from Lowell read *Paved Paradise: How Parking Explains the World* by Henry Grabar: "This was an interesting exploration of the intersection of urban design and class. It explored how parking policy got to where it is today and what methods we can use to fix it. I also read *Monsters* by Claire Dederer which was extraordinary but not entirely a new subject to me so I didn't think it counted."

A reader from Weymouth read *the Heartbeat of Wounded Knee* by David Treuer: "A lot of information about the history about native Americans and how they survived over the generations in spite of the culture clash with the settlers and growing industrialism. It really broadened my perspective!!!"

A reader from Sandwich read *How to be an Antiracist* by Ibram X Kendi: "This book is incredibly thought provoking. It is part autobiography, part history book and part change thesis. The 2022 edition evolved from the 2019 edition and offers notes about changes the author has made to clarify his intentions."

A reader from Hopkinton read *An Immense World* by Ed Yong: "It's an amazing book that has a wealth of information about animal senses and makes you consider them and their lives from a whole new perspective. It's been a while since I loved a popular science book this much. I never really considered what it means for animals to perceive the world differently from us, and I certainly didn't know a lot of the content here."

A reader from Amherst read *Educated* by Tara Westover: "An interesting look into how subsets of society can live without anyone ever really understanding the intricacies of their lives."

A reader from Westborough read *The Kingdom of Prep* by Maggie Bullock: "Very interesting to watch the creation of a brand, intertwined with the dissection of fashion's impact on our lives."

A reader from Belchertown read *Life and Death in the North Woods: The Story of the Maine Game Warden* by Eric Wight: "Loved learning about how the Maine Game wardens started and all the things they do. In my next life I want to be a game warden :)."

A reader from Hampden read *Master-Mind How To Think like Sherlock Holmes!* by Maria Konnikova: "I enjoyed reading the book. Psychological delving with a light touch. I did learn something - I'm not quite a Sherlock Holmes!!!"

A reader from BERKLEY read *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up* by Marie Kondo: "I always wanted to check this book out and finally did. It was interesting. It gave some simple principles that I will try. I am not sure that I will do a full "tidy" but will work towards it."

A reader from NORTHAMPTON read *The Pattern Seekers* by Simon Barin-Cohen: "Really interesting take on why we are seeing more Autism (related to those who seek patterns)."

A reader from Reading read *For All the Tea in China* by Sarah Rose: "Interesting history of the theft of tea from China by the East India company . Corporate shenanigans , beautiful descriptions of the mountainous regions of China and the Himalayans. I will contemplate whilst having my tea."

A reader from Northampton read *Joan of Arc: A Life Transfigured* by Kathryn Harrison: "Very well done look into the life of Joan of Arc, incorporating primary sources, historical context, and modern interpretations of Joan in art and theatre."

A reader from Sandwich read *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson: "This book is a necessary read for all Americans; it is a thorough investigation of how the American caste system originated and has been maintained from the colonial days to present, and the detriment it has wrought upon those who find themselves at the lowest rung and humanity as a whole."

A reader from Beverly read *This America of Ours: Bernard and Avis DeVoto and the Forgotten Fight to Save the Wild* by Nate Schweber: "A fantastic look at conservationism through the eyes of a wonderfully devoted couples. Schweber threads an exciting tale of how these two strong fighters saved the NPS from near-ruin in the mid-20th century."

A reader from Centerville read *The Politics Book. Big Ideas Simply Explained* by Several: "This book gives a comprehensive overview of political theorists from Ancient China, Rome and Greece to modern times (up to 2013 when it was published). The format allows one to read the entire book or to pick which chapters are of interest. Good starter book and reference for those who want to learn about politics."

A reader from Attleboro read *First They Killed My Father* by Loung Ung: "I first started *First They Killed My Father* probably about a year or two ago but never had the chance to get far into the book, so this month's challenge was the perfect opportunity for me to read the whole thing. I had never heard about the Cambodian genocide before this book and am grateful to the author for boldly and honestly sharing this brutal story with us."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *The Sky Atlas* by Edward Brooke-Hitching: "The book is a history of astronomy, as seen in star maps constructed by cultures over the centuries, beginning with prehistoric man. I was struck by the ability of the night sky to stimulate the human imagination and by the sheer detail of the images produced throughout human history."

A reader from Lowell read *The Storyteller* by Dave Grohl: "Non-fiction is one of my least favorite book genres, but I enjoyed this book from beginning to end. A well-told story of a well-lived life, I highly recommend - whether you're a fan of the Foo Fighters or have never heard of them."

A reader from Amesbury read *Naked Statistics* by Charles Wheelan: "I had a lot of fun learning the basics of applied statistics! And I have a better understanding of the topic now, too."

A reader from Middleboro read *Greenlights* by Matthew McConaughey: "Interesting Diary presentation format about his life and search for the value of value and what are the things we all have an opportunity to recognize as being the really best part of our lives. I enjoyed his philosophy on life and how to strive to learn from failures as well as successes. How to strive to be a good person and stress the more positive contribution we all can make to ourselves and the people around us."

A reader from Spencer read *Hope Blooms* by Bryan Stewart: "I never realized the amount of effort that goes into the Rose Parade floats. But the real star of this book is the shared stories of donor families and recipients."

A reader from Leominster read *Your body keeps the score* by Bessel van Der kolk: "Felt dry at times but very interesting and useful."

A reader from Plainville read *Spare* by Prince Harry: "I enjoyed learning about Prince Harry's past from his perspective as I didn't know much about it prior to reading this book."

A reader from Marblehead read *Mother Noise* by Cindy House: "A book about addiction that is heartbreaking and hopeful at the same time."

A reader from TEWKSBURY read *Psychology of Money* by Morgan Housel: "Easy to digest advice and ways to think about money."

A reader from Fall River read *The Hidden Life of Trees* by Peter Wohlleben: "Beautiful book; stunning photographs and a better understanding of our world and how trees are more like people than you think."

A reader from Salem read *Home Work* by Julie Andrews: "I LOVED this book. I have always admired Julie Andrews but did not know the details of her life or her time in Hollywood. I found it fascinating and she is a beautiful writer!"

A reader from Fitchburg read *Spare* by Prince Harry: "Interesting to know what went on behind the scenes with the Royal family."

A reader from Lowell read *All About Love* by bell hooks: "This book helped me reconnect with myself in a period of grief. It's a beautiful meditation on love as a practice."

A reader from Southborough read *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave* by Fredrick Douglass: "I thought it was super interesting to learn about the horrors of slavery through the eyes of an individual who experienced it first hand."

A reader from WILMINGTON read *Is ESP Real? The Science of the Sixth Sense* by Robert Lawrence Kuhn: "I found it interesting. Several psychologists and scientists disputed the topic of whether or not ESP was real."

A reader from Hampden read *A Drift America in 100 charts* by Scott Galloway: "About the country and how we are adrift. There are charts of where we started versus where we are now. How this country started and where we are going. Very bleak unless changes are made in social and economic ways."

A reader from Hamilton read *Born A Crime* by Trevor Noah: "Really liked this one. Didn't not know much at all about South Africa and apartheid and this book painted an informative picture of what life was like and still is today."

A reader from Whately read *The Soul of an Octopus* by Sy Montgomery: "This book was fascinating and I learned a lot about octopuses. They are very intelligent and have unique personalities. They are playful, inquisitive and develop relationships with people. I also learned that The New England Aquarian was one of the first in the nation to offer naturalistic settings for its animals."

A reader from Beverly read *How the Word is Passed* by Clint Smith: "Clint Smith, in his intro, says that he visited places for this book "where the story of slavery in America lives on." He writes about Monticello Plantation, about Angola Prison, and other institutions in the south. He writes with grief and clarity and deep examination of these histories and the real people who were affected and implicated in them. He puzzles over meetings of people still mourning the losses of the south in the Civil War and he meets with people trying to teach the history of slavery on the site of plantations who, for so many years, ignored the stories of its enslaved inhabitants. I knew some of this history, but not all of it. As it was reading Ibram X. Kendi's *Stamped from the Beginning*, this was another important window into history I was never taught in school."

A reader from Wellesley read *Bestsellers: A Very Short Introduction* by John Sutherland: "This book needed to be either even shorter or a whole lot longer."

A reader from Hanover read *Independence National Historic Park* by Ronald Bruce Thomson: "After reading about Boston's Freedom Trail, I decided to learn about the history of Philadelphia. It presented information on Ben Franklin, George Washington, John Adams. Great photos and discussion of Independence Hall, Liberty Bell, Thomas Jefferson and the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights. Interesting read on a city I have yet to visit."

A reader from Longmeadow read *Chemistry for Breakfast* by Dr. Mai Thi Nguyen-Kim: "This book is thankfully written for the non-chemists, making complicated science more digestible for the common human. While I did learn quite a few things, I find non-fiction books very hard to read. It was still beneficial to break out of my normal genre of choice, though."

A reader from Braintree read *Pomo Basketmaking* by Elsie Allen: "The basketry of the Pomo Native Americans of Northwestern California is breathtakingly beautiful. This book with clear written instructions and illustrations will help to preserve the techniques of this art form for future artisans."

A reader from Stoneham read *The Storied Ice: Exploration, Discovery & Adventure in Antarctica's Peninsula Region* by Joan N. Boothe: "I was looking for a book that had more about the geography of Antarctica. This was mostly history but still pretty interesting."

A reader from Essex read *Infamy* by Richard Reeves: "Very informative book about the Japanese American internment in WWII, a shameful period in US history."

A reader from Beverly read *American Sirens* by Kevin Hazzard: "Such a fascinating book about the history of Emergency Medical Services. I never thought about who the first paramedics were - you just think they have always been there but that was certainly not the case. It wasn't until the 1960's that the first emergency response team was formed in Pittsburgh PA through Freedom House. A team of 24 Black men were the nation's first paramedics. Kevin Hazzard has done a fine job of relaying this information."

A reader from Hampden read *Oh Crap! Potty Training* by Jamie Glowacki: "Hoping it works!"

A reader from Cambridge read *The Cathedral Is Dying* by Auguste Rodin: "'The Cathedral Is Dying' is made up of odds and ends written by the famous French sculptor Auguste Rodin, who did The Thinker, which everyone seems to know. I know very little about architecture, or about sculpture, for that matter. This little posthumous collection from the art publisher David Zwirner was about as unsystematic an

introduction as I could find. Rodin rails against cathedral restoration projects. Every now and then you hit a sentence that reads like a proverb, e.g. "Time can do no harm to planes that are true."

A reader from Wilmington read *Hidden Systems* by Dan Nott: "This book is a graphic depiction and explanation of "systems" like the internet, electricity, water management. The topics are fascinating and easily understood, augmented by the author's clear and appropriate drawings."

A reader from Weymouth read *The Hidden Life of Trees* by Peter Wohlleben: "I've always loved trees and believed they are a really important part of the world we live in. Who could have imagined that they are more complicated than we ever knew? Mother Nature is full of surprises!"

A reader from Scituate read *The hummingbirds' gift:wonder, beauty, and renewal on wings* by Sy Montgomery: "Almost as tiny as the birds that are at the center of this book, this book blends the author's experience helping care for 2 baby hummingbirds with facts and data about these unique creatures."

A reader from Charlton read *Atomic Habits* by James Clear: "Interesting to think about how the environment affect you habits and decisions."

A reader from Weymouth read *When McKinsey Comes to Town* by Walt Bogdanich and Michael Forsythe: "This is a well researched book by two New York Times reporters on the consulting firm McKinsey. It reveals how the firm grooms consultants to put profits over morals. Shocking cases are revealed including McKinsey's role in Enron, the opioid epidemic, Disney, and US Steel."

A reader from Rochester read *Spare* by Prince Henry: "After reading spare, I understand why he wanted a non royal life. I wish him the best."

A reader from Scituate read *The Worst Hard Time* by Timothy Egan: "Very interesting about a devastating time in history, Great American Dust Bowl. Occurred around time of the depression."

A reader from Franklin read *The Lazy Genius Way* by Kendra Adachi: "A self help book that gave guidance without telling you how to live your life."

A reader from SCITUATE read *Good Morning, Hope: A True Story of Refugee Twin Sisters* by Argita and Detina Zalli: "I always heard about immigrants from the American point of view, this book is written by twin sisters about their family's ordeal when attempting escape of Albania's civil war in 1997. Well written while showing triumph and trials over language barriers, criminals, timing, sadness, sense of loss, physical conditions and extreme endurance through many years!"

A reader from Woburn read *The Spanish Civil War* by Katie Griffiths: "I never learned about the Spanish Civil War in school, and took this opportunity to remedy that. This book could have used a better map, but otherwise I learned a lot!"

A reader from Northampton read *Barbarian Days* by William Finnegan: "Vivid descriptions of surfing, a subject I knew nothing about!"

A reader from Florence read *Three Girls from Bronzeville: A Uniquely American Memoir of Race, Fate, and Sisterhood* by Dawn Turner: "Strong memoir about three Black girls from the Bronzeville neighborhood of Chicago and how their histories, families, and futures were affected by race, class, opportunity, friendship, sisterhood, addiction, ambition, forgiveness, and love."

A reader from Braintree read *Planta Sapiens: The New Science of Plant Intelligence* by Paco Calvo with Natalie Lawrence: "This book poses the question, are plants conscientious?, and then progresses through ideas, evidence, and research in the aim of fine tuning this question. Thoughtfully written, this book is a good read for people interested in the philosophy of what it means to be conscious, what are plants capable of, and the history and evolution of ideas in science."

A reader from Plymouth read *Things I Wish I'd Known Before We Got Married* by Gary Chapman: "Super easy to read and interesting to me since I just got engaged."

A reader from Oakham read *Beaverland: How One Weird Rodent Made America* by Leila Philip: "Way more than I ever wanted to know about beavers. The takeaway: they may not be compliant with our need to develop infrastructure and keep nature at bay--but without them, we are sunk."

A reader from Hudson read *How to write a children's book and get published* by Barbara Seuling: "This was a good book. It has been very helpful in my pursuit of writing a children's book. Very informational and provides other great resources within. I never thought I would ever write, a let alone a children's book but after reading this book & others I have been inspired to try and give it some serious thought going forward."

A reader from Kingston read *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann: "Fascinating yet disturbing read of the creation of the FBI following the murders of numerous members of the Osage tribe."

A reader from Amherst read *The Fire Is upon Us: James Baldwin, William F. Buckley Jr., and the Debate over Race in America* by Nicholas Buccola: "Amazing! The subject of race in America is not new to me, but I really didn't know much about either James Baldwin or William F. Buckley before this book. I really loved it -- everyone should read it!"

A reader from Westford read *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up* by Marie Kondo: "The book was really helpful for helping me start tidying at home."

A reader from South Hadley read *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants* by Robin Wall Kimmerer: "This book was about plants, nature, Indigenous teachings, and the power of story. It was very enlightening!"

A reader from MIDDLEBORO read *Present Over Perfect* by Shauna Niequist: "There was a bit more religion than I prefer, my fault for not looking closely enough before diving in. But there were so many gems that had me thinking and reflecting."

A reader from Franklin read *Behind the Beautiful Forevers* by Katherine Boo: "A complex book that I had a lot of thoughts about for sure-- very well-written and kept me reading; reads like fiction. On the one hand, a white woman writing about the slums of India raised some questions for me. The book somewhat forces the reader to take on the "poverty tourism" lens and, I think deliberately, causes you to question yourself-- is it problematic that you are so fascinated by the people she depicts? At the same time, I appreciated that the folks she writes about are not infantilized or rolled into all one category as "those poor people," etc. She portrays them as the complex individuals they are, sometimes being awful to each other, ultimately because of the desperate circumstances and corruption that capitalism forces them into."

A reader from Holbrook read *The Body Keeps the Score* by Bessel Van Der Kolk MD: “An interesting and informative book about the effects of trauma on the body and brain.”

A reader from Dennis Port read *Jellyfish Age Backwards: Nature’s Secrets to Longevity* by Nicklas Brendborg: “I heard the author on NPR and the interview was very interesting. The book, however, felt a bit disorganized and I think I would have rather enjoyed instead watching it as a documentary.”

A reader from Beverly read *Slaves in the Family* by Edward Ball: “I really enjoyed the author’s sensitive way of talking about slave history in regards to his family from North Carolina.”

A reader from Attleboro read *It’s All Relative* by AJ Jacobs: “Interesting book about helping to build the World Family Tree and holding The Global Family Reunion because according to AJ Jacobs, we are all cousins. It made me think about DNA testing and how it can be beneficial. I enjoyed AJ Jacobs’ entertaining style of writing.”

A reader from RANDOLPH read *A (Very) Short History of Life on Earth* by Henry Gee: “This is an fascinating presentation of the Earth’s evolution from a remnant of a super nova explosion over billions of years to the world we humans share with all living things. This book was a great explanation and exploration about the science of evolution and the continuing life cycle of the planet Earth.”

A reader from Marstons Mills read *The Light We Give: How Sikh Wisdom Can Transform Your Life* by Simran Jeet Singh: “Really enjoyed reading this book. Had a lot of insight and learned a lot.”

A reader from Amherst read *Butts: a Backstory* by Heather Radke: “Fascinating natural/social/fashion history!”

A reader from Beverly read *Reading Lolita in Tehran* by Azar Nafisi: “I actually hate learning the history of the Middle Eastern countries. But this book uncovered many themes that helped me frame the perspective. I’m going to read 2 more historical fiction novels set in the country of Iran and similar time periods to help grow my knowledge and understanding.”

A reader from Lowell read *When Broken Glass Floats* by Chanrithy Him: “Chanrithy Him’s memoir growing up under the Khmer Rouge was a deeply tragic story. I gives insight into being robbed of a normal childhood and being thrust into labor camps. It is visceral, especially the descriptions of hunger and death.”

A reader from Reading read *A Fever in the Heartland* by Timothy Egan: “Eye opening and disturbing glimpse into the inner workings of the KKK and what led to their downfall in the 1920s-30s.”

A reader from Amesbury read *Like a Mother* by Angela Garbes: “Placentas are amazing!”

A reader from Brewster read *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer: “Braiding Sweetgrass is a book that is thought provoking and definitely one that I will reread. After reading this book, you will think about Earth and all living creatures with a mindset of gratitude.”

A reader from Northampton read *The Radium Girls* by Kate Moore: “This was fascinating and so upsetting. I had no idea that at one point radium was thought to be good for your health. What happened to these women was horrendous and the negligence and blatant disregard by the companies was so compelling.”

A reader from Woburn read *And a Bottle of Rum* by Wayne Curtis: “Well, I started reading this, having not seen the subtitle (A History of the New World in Ten Cocktails), expecting it to be about pirates and all things piratical... But what a pleasant surprise! I really enjoyed the exploration of Rum, its relationship with our country, and the history behind a number of interesting cocktails.”

A reader from Salem read *It Was All A Dream: Biggie and the world that made him* by Justin Tinsley: “I found this book to be extremely informative and attention grabbing. As someone familiar with the rap artist it’s about, but knowing much of his life, this was a great book to learn about such a respected and missed musician.”

A reader from Hopkinton read *The Third Teacher* by OWP/P Canon Design Inc, VS furniture: “I chose architecture as a subject new to me. I selected this book because it appeared to combine architecture with education, both topics that were interesting. The book contained a lot of ideas about improving educational environments. I am motivated to try some of these with my children.”

A reader from Lynnfield read *The 4-Hour Chef* by Timothy Ferriss: “Interesting ideas, but was difficult to read, because of how much it jumped around.”

A reader from Norwell read *The Wager* by David Grann: “Such an interesting read, quite the story of survival. I had never heard of this shipwreck before.”

A reader from Attleboro read *Dear Ijeawele, or A Feminists Manifesto in Fifteen Suggestions* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: “This was a beautiful conversation about how to raise girls (and children) in an equitable way, defying gender stereotypes.”

A reader from Franklin read *The Falcon Guide to Van Life* by Ben and Roxy Dawson: “I’m currently “perusing” this non-fiction book which is chock-full of tips, ideas and options for living in a van. Though I don’t plan on FT van life it is interesting to see what folks are doing. There are lots of pictures and real life examples for anyone contemplating this, even part-time.”

A reader from Longmeadow read *The Divorce Colony* by April White: “Fascinating story about how Sioux Falls, SD became the “divorce capital” of the US at the turn-of-the-last century by recounting the experiences of 4 women who took advantage of the most lax divorce laws in the US at that time. Great read!”

A reader from Hadley (moved from Salem) read *The Gambler Wife: A True Story of Love, Risk, and the Woman Who Saved Dostoyevsky* by Andrew D. Kaufman: “Wow! I am a big fan of Dostoyevsky’s classic “Crime and Punishment,” but did not know about the demons that plagued him (gambling, jealousy) or anything at all about his young wife and former stenographer Anna Snitkina, who is largely responsible for getting his other works out there. Courageous and well ahead of her time, Anna was a force! The parallels between the political climate of late 1800s/early 1900s Russia and the current political climate in the US is also eye-opening. Fascinating read.”

A reader from Melrose read *The real history of juneteenth* by Elliott Smith: “This book invited me to question the status quo. It confronted traditional narratives and it shared stories from underrepresented individuals.”

A reader from Three Rivers read *The Pickleball Bible* by Lambson and Finger: "The book was very detailed on how to improve your game, but also with explanation on why you may want to use those skills. It also had ways to teach pickleball."

A reader from East Bridgewater read *The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny and Murder* by David Grann: "I learned about a handful of phrases we say today that came from nautical language way back when (fascinating!), but I felt like based on the book jacket, I was expecting the plot to be more .. dramatic? As if getting shipwrecked in the 1700s isn't dramatic enough :)"

A reader from Sunderland read *Imagined Communities* by Benedict Anderson: "Imagined Communities was a very fascinating look into the origins of nationalism and how it spread. While it was very interesting and extremely influential on theory around nationalism, I definitely found it a bit tough to get through because Anderson's prose is so meandering and verbose."

A reader from Craryville read *Dancing With Water: The new Science of Water* by MJ Panamanian, Melanie Evans: "A fascinating look at the crystalline qualities of water, and how modern living destroys those qualities. An indispensable resource for helping you return those qualities so that you drink living water."

A reader from Quincy read *The Dictionary of Obscure Sorrows* by John Koenig: "I loved reading this dictionary, which was full of new words for emotions. One of my favorites was "looseleft," an adjective; "feeling a sense of loss upon finishing a good book, sensing the weight of the back cover locking away the lives of characters you've gotten to know so well."

A reader from melrose read *Dark Tide- The Great Boston Molasses Flood of 1919* by Stephen Puleo: "I had heard of the Molasses flood once or twice. I thought it was a myth. The book was fascinating. It told all the details of the terrible event that occurred in Boston. I never knew that molasses was used in the production of alcohol and how that tied into prohibition. The amount of damage and death was amazing. I would recommend this book to anyone looking for local lore."

A reader from Northfield read *The Sum of Us What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together* by Heather McGee: "I found myself bowing my head often to accept the heft and portent of the thoroughly researched information that is offered so gracefully. I felt that I was being led by a skillful, genuine, empathetic, brilliant, trustworthy witness through the incontrovertible value of multiracial solidarity."

A reader from Burlington read *Away Off Shore* by Nathaniel Philbrick: "I found it fascinating, and well-written. I became interested in the history of the island after reading a recent historical fiction, and this book did a great job laying it out in an interesting and engaging manner. I didn't realize this was Philbrick's first non-fiction book until I read the author's introduction!"

A reader from Reading read *The Secret Life of Cows* by Rosamund Young: "I absolutely adore cows! This was such a lovely read about their daily lives, different personalities, as well as the author's beautiful philosophy on raising them. It was an interesting read and I learned quite a bit."

A reader from Beverly read *My Year With Eleanor: A Memoir* by Noelle Hancock: "I liked it! I definitely want to read more about Eleanor Roosevelt now."

A reader from Worcester read *Drawing on the Walls* by Matthew Burgess: "I've always wanted to learn a little more about Keith Haring, and this book was a super short and sweet biography that I was able to read during a month packed full of college graduation antics. I really loved the art in this book!"

A reader from Fitchburg read *Sorry I'm Late I didn't Want to Come* by Jessica Pan: "This book was all about the author getting out of her comfort zone. I wanted to love it, but it was a slow read and felt like it should have been an essay."

A reader from Seekonk read *The Body Liberation Project* by Chrissy King: "I was really excited to see this on the shelf at my library. I learned so much about the affects of racism on body image."

A reader from Hudson read *My Five Cambridge Friends* by Yuri Modin: "The book is about five Englishmen who became secret agents for the Soviet Union during and after World War II. Guy Burgess, Kim Philby, and Anthony Blunt were names I had heard before but I knew nothing about their history. This was their story as told by their KGB controller, and it was eye-opening, as well as quite suspenseful when Burgess, Philby, and two other agents defected to the USSR."

A reader from Boston read *Franchise: The Golden Arches in Black America* by Marcia Chatelain: "Really interesting intersection of food justice, economics, and civil rights."

A reader from East Taunton read *Inflation in Infographics* by Christina Hill: "I really liked this book because it was informative and I learned how inflation affects prices of everyday items."

A reader from WEST BARNSTABLE read *Thunderstruck* by Erik Larson: "In his typical gripping narrative fashion, Larson relates two parallel stories, Marconi's quest to develop wireless technology and the events surrounding an infamous London murder case involving a Dr. Crippen. I previously had only superficial knowledge of Marconi's efforts and knew nothing about Crippen but that is no longer the case."

A reader from Northampton read *On the Origin of time: Stephen Hawking's Final Theory* by Thomas Hertog: "Mind-melting book about the "no boundary" big bang, quantum/string/M theories, imaginary time, the holographic universe, and other fascinating concepts; surprisingly accessible despite the inherent challenge of "understanding" anything in it."

A reader from Beverly read *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann: "This well-written account kept me on the edge of my seat the whole time. I was fascinated to learn about the Osage headrights and the connection to the FBI."

A reader from Weymouth read *The Feather Thief: Beauty, Obsession, and the Natural History Heist of the Century* by Kirk Wallace Johnson: "I was unaware of the existence of the illicit trade of exotic bird feathers for use in flyfishing...until I read this book! And actually, rare specimens, some of which date back to the age of Darwin, are often used not so much for flyfishing, but for the decorative art of fly tying, which can be an entirely different pursuit. The relatively short length of this book (336 pages) made it a very digestible account that combined history, true crime, and the psychology behind the human desire to possess beauty."

A reader from Middleboro read *Born a crime* by Trevor Noah: "An excellent memoir which opened my eyes to life in South Africa after apartheid. I would never have guessed that this was how Trevor Noah had grown up."

A reader from South Easton read *The Girls Who Fought Crime* by Maj. Gen. Mari K. Eder: “An interesting look at the history of women serving in the NYPD with the life and career of Mary "Mae" Foley at its center.”

A reader from Amherst read *The Neuroscientist who Lost her Mind* by Barbara Lipska: “Her experience with metastatic melanoma in her brain-how she lost her mind and her rough road into remission and return to normal life-was a harrowing story of disease and medical miracles. I learned about a disease I never understood. I never read books about people’s illnesses, so it was a learning experience-what she went through on her road to recovery.”

A reader from NIANTIC read *Romaine Wasn't Built In A Day* by Judith Tschann: “The book was about the history of food language, how names for food came to be, the root of the name, the name in different languages, and different meanings.”

A reader from Wakefield read *Newborn 101* by Carole Kramer Arsenault: “As a first time parent preparing for a newborn, this was an invaluable resource. It really helped to provide clarity.”

A reader from New York read *The Soul of an Octopus* by Sy Montgomery: “I loved this book and learned so much about octopuses and about animal intelligence in general! The author’s writing style is very engaging as well.”

A reader from Palmer read *This is what it sounds like: what the music you love says about you* by Susan Rogers and Ogi Ogas: “Whether it be authenticity, realism, novelty, melody, lyrics, rhythm, or timbre, we each have a sweet spot when it comes to the music we love. Rogers and Ogas break each down for us, with a variety of examples on a book website that link to songs on streaming services, so that we can discover our personal listening profile. I really enjoyed reading and listening through this and trying to work out my own listener profile as I went. The authors' love for music comes out in their descriptions. The records (individually recordings of songs) chosen as examples are distinctive and do a great job of illustrating each feature.”

A reader from West Whately read *Atlas of the Heart* by Brené Brown: “I'm not sure emotions are a "new" subject for me, however Brené Brown's research showing there are more than the handful of emotions one typically thinks of - happy, sad, angry, mad - helped shift my perception about feelings and emotions. Reading this book made me feel I'd grown up with an extremely limited set of options for understanding how things made me feel. Suddenly there were several dozen new doors which opened wide.”

A reader from Billerica read *Walking with Sam* by Andrew McCarthy: “A memoir of a father and son journey on Camino de Santiago in Spain. Interesting book on a 500 mile journey that many people take for a variety of reasons.”

A reader from Enfield read *Beyond the Wand* by Rom Felton: “I didn’t realize all the struggles Tom Felton went through as a child actor and how it effected his life afterwards.”

A reader from Belchertown read *Were you born on the wrong continent* by Thomas Geoghegan: “Book looks at the differences between the US and Europe and is a fascinating read!”

A reader from Wilbraham read *Braiding Sweet Grass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer: "This book should be required reading for everyone, but especially high school students. We've clearly lost our way in terms of valuing our Earth."

A reader from Merrimac read *Stranded: Finding Nature in Uncertain Times* by Maddalena Bearzi: "A charming little book that looks at the unexpected beauty of nature when we take the time to "stop and smell the roses." The pandemic allowed this Italian researcher, who specialized in studying marine mammals, to explore a whole new world in her own backyard."

A reader from Lowell read *The art of war* by Sun Tzu: "Interesting war??"

A reader from Salem read *Orchid Muse* by Erica Hannickel: "I was concerned about finding a nonfiction book that would capture and hold my interest, but *Orchid Muse* did exactly that! It is a fascinating collection of anecdotes about how orchids and botany have influenced, impacted, and symbolized a myriad of events, people, and the human experience throughout all of history."

A reader from West Falmouth read *If You Want to Write* by Brenda Ueland: "a bit funky! But there are some good messages in there about expressing who you really are rather than trying to be a good or certain kind of writer."

A reader from Lynnfield read *Platonic* by Marisa G Franco: "Really helpful book! I love psychology and loved learning more about human nature in friendships."

A reader from Sutton read *Am I Lying to Myself? How to Overcome Denial and See the Truth* by Jane Greer, PhD: "I learned a lot about relationships, issues that may come up with certain people in your life, and how to deal with them and set boundaries for yourself."

A reader from andover read *The ultimate retirement guide for 50+* by Size orman: "Very informative with great tips and also some common sense information."

A reader from Worcester read *Ansel Adams An Autobiography* by Ansel Adams with Mary Street Alinder: "It was so interesting to learn about Ansel Adams in his own words, as I have always admired his photographs. I'm inspired to revisit some of the photographs he mentioned and to continue my own journey with photography!"

A reader from Danvers read *The Power Worshipper: Inside the Dangerous Rise of Religious Nationalism* by Katherine Stewart: "While not surprising, eye opening about the efforts into religious nationalism, and how religious zealots co opt stories and rewrite history or present it in a matter that is not while and skewed."

A reader from Haverhill read *Red Rock Stories* by Stephen Trimble: "Great little collection of essays on preserving the land in Utah."

A reader from Enfield read *Entangled Life* by Merlin Sheldrake: "It was extremely interesting! Fungi are such complex organisms and impact literally everything around us and it was wild learning about it in such depth."

A reader from Weymouth read *What If? Serious Scientific Answers to Hypothetical Questions Absurd* by Randall Monroe: "Interesting, amusing information about completely random topics."

A reader from Plymouth read *The Devil in The White City* by Erik Larson: "It had a slow start that made it really hard to want to pick back up. Mostly about the World's Fair architecture when I wanted to read more about H.H. Holmes."

A reader from Uxbridge read *The Drunken Botanist* by Amy Stewart: "It was interesting learning about plant history and the different drinks made from not only different plants but different parts of plants."

A reader from Barnstable read *Virtual Society* by Herman Narula: "With Metaverse (and AI) all the rage, people mistakenly think the metaverse is a new concept created by the internet. The reality is that virtual societies have been around for centuries and technology is part of its newest incarnation. The metaverse will be less about escapism from real life but rather augmenting the physical world and providing fulfillment and value that is currently lacking in today's physical world."

A reader from Haverhill read *Life In Five Senses* by Gretchen Rubin: "I found this book very interesting, especially as I am trying to learn to live more in the moment and to keep track of things I am grateful for. This book suggests slowing down and appreciating experiences through each one of your senses and not taking them for granted."

A reader from Wilbraham read *The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair That Changed America* by Erik Larson: "An in-depth narrative of the trials and tribulations of the building and running of the Chicago Worlds Fair in 1893, combined with a real-life murder mystery."

A reader from Sutton read *Expecting Better* by Emily Oster: "Great book summarizing all the data and decisions needed during pregnancy!"

A reader from Bourne read *Vanderbilt: The Rise and Fall of an American Dynasty* by Anerson Cooper, Katherine Howe: "I didn't know the story behind the sinking of the Lusitania. I was not aware of Truman Capote's story. I hadn't realized that the Breakers and the Marble House were both owned by Vanderbilts. It was vary interesting following history through a family that I had not read about before."

A reader from Springfield read *African Samurai* by Thomas Lockley and Geoffrey Girard: "Fascinating book about a historical figure I had never heard about, set in a country I am extremely interested in. We have some detailed information about Yasuke during the three-year period he served Oda Nobunaga, we know very little about him before, or what happened to him after. The book presents his story with much about the culture and history of japan to help the reader understand what happened. Highly recomended."

A reader from Hopedale read *We Were Once a Family* by Roxanna Asgarian: "Investigative reported details failures in the foster care adoption agencies, forcibly separating children from their families. Equal parts heartbreaking and infuriating."

A reader from Beverly read *The Language of Trees - A Rewinding of Literature and Landscape* by Katie Holten: "Super! I learned so much about trees from the many short essays, poems, drawings."

A reader from Tewksbury read *Entangled Life* by Merlin Sheldrake: "Biology, ecology, climatology, and psychopathology all in one book about fungi and mushrooms. "How fungi makes out worlds, change our minds, and shape our futures.""

A reader from Teaticket read *Fodor's Travel Seoul* by Fodor: "Picked this book because had gone to Memorial Day weekend cemetery tour that focused on some veterans who lost lives in service of the country. A Korean veteran was focused. Looked at this book to find history re Korean War. Discovered interesting facts about Korean culture too!"

A reader from Buckland read *The Constellations myths of the stars* by Errol Jud Coder: "I have never read anything about astrology so I hoped this would be a good introduction to the subject. The back stories about the constellations were brief and did not go into any depth. Even though there were diagrams of each constellation I could not envision the scene described by the name."

A reader from Danvers read *Americanc Murderer* by Gail Jarrow: "Fascinating exploration of the epidemic of hookworm infections in the southern US in the late 19th century and early 20th century. It is incredibly interesting to see parallels in the challenges of public health and safety from a century ago to challenges we still see today."

A reader from Bridgewater read *How to Think Like a Woman* by Regan Penaluna: "The subject of Philosophy wasn't 100% new to me, but I hadn't read much about it outside of college years ago. Penaluna strings together her own life and experiences as a big thinker with the history and works of the female philosophers of the past, many of whom are somewhat forgotten. Interesting if you're interested!"

A reader from East Falmouth read *Becoming A Visible Man* by Jamison Green: "I found this book very informative on a subject that is much discussed in the media today. As a cisgender female, I feel that it was important for me to know more about the lives of those who transition in order to be seen for who they are."

A reader from Weymouth read *The Adventures of Miss Barbara Pym* by Paula Byrne: "Not sure if a biography is considered non-fiction for the purpose of the reading challenge, but it is what I read, and I now want to read all of Miss Pym's novels."

A reader from Attleboro read *Lies My Teacher Told Me* by James W. Loewen: "This is an enlightening text that challenges the veracity of our school's history books. With the current trend of politicians and others who want to sanitize our history so as to not make children feel bad, someone willing to present more truth in history offers a refreshing perspective."

A reader from Forestdale read *The Finest Hours* by Michael Tougias & Casey Sherman: "I am not much into non fiction (Biographys yes) but I really enjoyed this book. I have never seen the movie, but I was inspired to read this book from a visit to Rock Harbor in Orleans MA to see the actual rescue boat. Great read."

A reader from Wrentham read *Outliers: The Story of Success* by Malcolm Gladwell: "A fascinating look at how success can "happen". Who would have thought that a birthdate could affect certain careers?"

A reader from Beverly read *Goodnight Stories For Rebel Girls : 100 Tales of Black Girl Magic* by Lilly Workneh: "I originally read it to find research for Aretha Franklin for school but then I read the rest and I really enjoyed it. All of the women were very inspiring and I love the way that it was told like an actual story."

A reader from Middleboro read *One Child* by Mei Fong: "I thought this book was interesting, but it was also quite redundant and could have been a lot shorter. I learned more than I needed to know about China's one-child policy."

A reader from Kingston read *Caste: The origins of our discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson: "I appreciated how Wilkerson tied together story and history to help the reader understand the connections between the caste systems in India, the United States, and Nazi Germany. For example, I learned how Nazi Germany used law and practices from the United States to construct their policies and identify people in their own caste system."

A reader from Los Alamos read *Bittersweet: How Sorrow and Longing Make Us Whole* by Susan Cain: "Interesting look at longing and the bittersweet feelings that some of us experience as we deal with life - I realize I'm not the only one who feels this way."

A reader from Jordan read *Fat Talk: Parenting in the Age of Diet Culture* by Virginia Sole-Smith: "Brilliant expose of diet and fat-phobic culture, and insightful guide to helping kids navigate our weight obsessed medical and social cultures. It should be a must-read for all parents of girls especially!"

A reader from West Yarmouth read *Bicycling with Butterflies* by Sara Dykman: "Bicycling 10,201 miles from Mexico through the States into Canada and back to Mexico following the migration of the Monarchs is not something I'll ever do, but I so enjoyed being along for the journey."

A reader from Yarmouthport read *Last Train to Paradise: Henry Flagler and the spectacular rise and fall of the railroad that crossed the ocean* by Les Staniford: "I thoroughly enjoyed this book about Henry Flagler and his obsession to build a railroad to the end of the Florida Keys over the ocean. It was a daunting task and he spent excessive time, money, and energy to get it done. It would never have happened today. I learned a lot about the Florida Keys and hurricanes. Will look at the area a bit differently the next time I drive through."

A reader from Columbus read *Surrender 40 Songs One Story* by Bono: "Learned a lot about Bono the activist. He's a good story teller and the book is an engaging easy read."

A reader from Woods Hole read *My Hygge Home* by Meik Wiking: "I really enjoyed learning some ways to develop my life around hygge and comfort and appreciation."

A reader from Milford read *Timefulness: How Thinking Like a Geologist Can Help Save the World* by Marcia Bjornerud: "This is one of the best science books I've ever read. It makes me want to take a class with Professor Bjornerud and wish I'd studied geology in college. It was eye-opening about the ignorance so many of us have about Earth's history and how this lack of understanding has contributed to the harm we do to the environment. It was also clear about our responsibility to care for our planet for future generations. All this and it also managed to be humorous. Highly recommended."

A reader from South Weymouth read *Whole brain child* by Daniel J Siegal: "I really enjoyed learning about how to meet a child's needs and expect it to be really helpful as I enter parenthood."

A reader from Malden read *No Book* by Noone: "I tried to read about 5 different NF books on subjects unfamiliar to me, however, it turns out I don't read those books because I have no interest in those subject matters and just didn't want to waste my time reading stuff I am not enjoying reading about. I tried history, science, politics, and then essay books. Nothing grabbed me."

A reader from Buzzards Bay read *Ninety Percent of Everything* by Rose George: "A very good look into how our modern world is supported by ships no one thinks about. Well, before the Evergreen ship blocked the Suez canal, so maybe it can be read to understand just how much work and danger goes into shipping goods around the world."

A reader from Greenfield read *Gender Queer* by Maia Keabab: "A friend recommended this book to me to help me understand the pronoun issue and why it is so important. The book explained that and a whole lot more such as brain differences, feelings of never being understood (often by yourself as well as others) and why all of the gender issues are really ok and non threatening. I enjoyed the book, learned many things and am recommending it to my bookclub next month! Thanks again, Massbook Challenge!"

A reader from Stoneham read *Murder at Breakhart Hill Farm* by Heath and Simcox: "Good summary of murder case. Authors had access to entire trial transcript from 1901."

A reader from Springfield read *American Siren* by Kevin Hazzard: "This is the remarkable story of a group of undereducated black men in Pittsburg who became the first paramedics in America. A facinating read, this story should be on reading lists in high schools, libraries, book clubs etc. A great read!"

A reader from Shrewsbury read *In the Weeds* by Tom Vitale: "Interesting to learn about the behind the scenes of filming a food show."

A reader from Braintree read *Tastes Like War* by Grace M. Cho: "Tastes Like War is a memoir written by the daughter of a Korean mother and American father. Growing up, Grace Cho had known her parents met when her father, a merchant marine, was stationed in Korea during the Korean War, and that her mother, a "war bride", was an exotic outsider in her father's economically depressed hometown in Washington State, but it wasn't until her mother changed so dramatically (and not until much later diagnosed with schizophrenia) that she started researching the condition of Korean women during the war and the long-buried trauma that was her mother's lifelong burden and probable cause of her mental illness and decline from vibrant, sexy suburban mother to the reclusive and paranoid person she she became."

A reader from Worcester read *Shakespeare* by Bill Bryson: "The book is a great read to learn more about the infamous playwright and the myths that surround him. There's more myth than fact regarding the playwright and Bryson does a great job of describing the world in which Shakespeare lived and created."

A reader from Amherst read *Being a Human* by Charles Foster: "Interesting exploration into the evolutionary development of human consciousness through a phenomenological study. Unusual and entertaining."

A reader from Lynnfield read *Dinner With Ruth* by Nina Totenberg: "Nina Totenberg, NPR reporter, recalls her friendship with RBG and others. I had often wondered about the Court, reporting and the lives of public figures. Humanly portrayed."