



2023 Reading Challenge

**JUNE**

**A book set in a  
country you've  
never visited**

A reader from Milford read *The Good Life: Lessons from the World's Longest Scientific Study of Happiness* by Robert Waldinger & Marc Schulz: "This book may have changed my life. How much better off we are when we talk to others."

A reader from Rochester read *An olive grove at the edge of the world* by Jared gulian: "Book was set in New Zealand. About two young men who bought a home with an olive grove they knew nothing about olives or farming very good story hope this author writes an update on how their doing now."

A reader from Woburn read *Now you see us* by Balli Kaur Jaswal: "Now You See Us tells the story of four domestic workers in Singapore, one of whom is charged with crime she didn't commit. The author based the story loosely on real events trying to shed light on the conditions many of these women live in. There is also connection to the Philippines and a nod to the suffering caused by the 'war on drugs.' Overall, good read. Liked hearing the different perspectives of each of the women."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *The Diamond Eye* by Kate Quinn: "This was a gripping historical novel about a young Russian woman who was a sniper in World War II. It is a fictional adaption of a real woman who killed over 700 Germans to protect her homeland..."

A reader from Needham read *The Antiquarian* by Julian Sanchez: “Barcelona was an interesting setting and an additional character and the world of antiquarians interested me. However, the plot was a little too much like Dan Brown's Da Vinci Code. I chose this from available titles on Libby for a country that I had not visited.”

A reader from Northampton read *Diary of a Void* by Emi Yagi: “This book was so good! I really enjoyed it and laughed more than I thought I would. I'll keep an eye out for other Emi Yagi books in the future.”

A reader from Woods Hole read *Open Veins of Latin America* by Eduardo Galeano: “Eye opening and thought provoking. Makes you wonder how our narratives get framed.”

A reader from Burlington read *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee: “I found the beginning of this story the most captivating, and I cared less and less as the generations moved on.”

A reader from Springfield read *The Song of Achilles* by Madeline Miller: “A lovely read, beautifully written, very emotional. I had trouble getting into the beginning, but by the second third I was hooked.”

A reader from Worcester read *In the Palace of Flowers* by Victoria Princewill: “I did not enjoy this book. It was very depressing historical fiction. I am interested to learn more about the woman it was based on, though.”

A reader from Amherst read *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See: “The book is set on the island of Jeju, was deeply researched by the author, recounting a story of two women who are part of the all-woman diving collective. These girls and women support their families with the diving, but it is very dangerous and results in long-term health problems as well. The novel spans decades in time following these girls and women through tragedy and separation, from Japanese colonialism of 1930s and 40s to modern times. It's an involving novel, all the more so, because of the dedicated research into the real history of the Korean Island and what happened to the people, especially the women, there.”

A reader from Whately read *Murder in Montparnasse* by Kerry Greenwood: “Another delightful Phryne Fisher mystery, which takes place in Australia (a country I have never visited) but has many flashbacks to Paris France just after the war. With a delightfully mixed cast of characters, and a plot which contains as many layers as a mille feuille, this is Greenwood at her best.”

A reader from Attleboro read *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See: “This story is engrossing, beautifully descriptive, and, at times, disturbing. I learned a lot about the 1930's and 40's on the island of Jeju which I had never heard of and how they were affected by the Japanese and also the US after Japan surrendered.”

A reader from Chicopee read *The Lost Girls of Ireland* by Susanne O'Leary: “This book made me want to visit a small town in Ireland to meet the charming people that make up this book.”

A reader from Beverly read *The Moor's Last Sigh* by Salman Rushdie: “A great story of a family or an individual, you decide. There is plenty of dramatic flair, humor, symbolism, and conflict that keeps you reading until the end.”

A reader from South Hadley read *Forged By Blood* by Ehigbor Okosun: “This is a debut adult fantasy novel that will come out in August, and it takes place in the fictional land of Ife (so I've of course never visited the setting!), but it's inspired by Nigerian mythology. It was a fantastic read, I think that Ehigbor

Okosun is an exciting new author in this genre and I can't wait to read the second book in this duology, or anything else that Okosun writes in the future."

A reader from Westford read *Miss Peregrine's home for peculiar children* by Ransom Riggs: "I liked it a lot. I had seen the film and the book was different in an intriguing way."

A reader from Centerville read *The Guest List* by Lucy Foley: "This gripping thriller is set on a remote island off Ireland. A few 'yeah, right' moments but it was a fun read. I would recommend it."

A reader from Attleboro read *The Half-life of Valero K* by Natasha Pulley: "This book is based on real events in a Soviet city concerning radiation spreading over a region. I couldn't put this book down. I thought it was well done."

A reader from Essex read *The Dry* by Jane Harper: "Very well written crime novel with some good twists."

A reader from Essex read *The Dry* by Jane Harper: "I enjoyed this mystery set in Australia. The characters were well developed in the story and kept you guessing."

A reader from Amherst read *The Magus* by John Fowles: "I decided to re-read this book due to a planned trip to Greece. Fowles did well in evoking an atmosphere of intriguing and sinister mystery."

A reader from Bolton read *Clanlands* by Sam Heughan & Graham McTavish: "If you enjoy the Outlander series you will likely enjoy this book written by 2 of the actors. They travel across Scotland, sharing their (mis)adventures with the reader. A mini series for TV is the foundation for the book – 'Men in Kilts.'"

A reader from ANDOVER read *The Perfumist of Paris* by Alka Joshi: "This is the third book in the series and I enjoyed it! It took place partly in India and partly in Paris. It was interesting to read because it talked about the women's movement in the 70s and a woman's desire to work outside the home."

A reader from Blackstone read *Apples Never Fall* by Liane Moriarty: "A well-written family drama filled with levels of mystery. Page turner and great ending."

A reader from Groveland read *Projekt 1065* by Alan Gratz: "This was really good. Very interesting, and kept me interested."

A reader from Waltham read *The Hacienda* by Isabel Canas: "Enthralling Gothic horror with a new spin."

A reader from West Falmouth read *Swimming in the Congo* by Margaret Meyers: "Wonderful stories of being around missionary families and a very different culture."

A reader from Erving read *Pirate Latitudes* by Michael Crichton: "This title was on my book-bucket-list and I'm glad I finally read it! The author used real historical characters and information to create a convincing pirate story."

A reader from Leominster read *Meet me at the lake* by Carley Fortune: "Fortunes second novel fell flat for me. But the representation of Canada made me want to visit."

A reader from Lowell read *Earthlings* by Sayaka Murata: "Earthlings is a strange story that follows a woman, Natsuki, who feels that she does not fit into the expectations of Japanese society. This leads her to embrace being an outcast. I finished the book quickly because I never knew where it was going to go! I enjoyed how odd it was."

A reader from Brookline read *Le Passager du Polarlys* by Georges Simenon: "An atmospheric suspense novel from the 1930s. The captain of a ship traveling between Hamburg and Norway has a bad feeling about two new crew members and about his handful of passengers, and sure enough, one of them is soon found murdered."

A reader from Brookline read *Le Passager du Polarlys* by Georges Simenon: "A book from the 1930s about a murder aboard a merchant ship traveling from Germany to Norway. As a terrible storm moves in, the captain has to figure out which of his strange passengers and unusual crew members are involved in the crime."

A reader from Naples read *Honor* by Thrity Umrigar: "Honor is set in India. It blew me away. Not easy to read, but I could not stop listening. So easy to recommend. Smita, an Indian-American journalist, returns to India to cover the story of Meena, a Hindu woman in an inter-faith marriage whose brothers set fire to her home, killing her Muslim husband and disfiguring her. Murdering the couple is an attempt to avenge the dishonor of the inter-faith marriage. Meena sues her brothers in pursuit of justice for her husband and to inspire other victimized women."

A reader from Hopkinton read *Spare* by Prince Harry: "Interesting to hear Prince Harry's story about his life as a child, serving in the military, and finding love."

A reader from Weymouth read *It Would Be Night in Caracas* by Karina Sainz Borgo: "The book begins with the narrator burying her mother in Venezuela. A connection can be seen at the end of the book when the daughter leaves Venezuela with a new identity. Adelaida Falcon is brought up in a stable home by a single mother. In later life, Caracas has become a terrorist place. Forced to adopt the identity of Aurora Peralta, she flees Venezuela. It is a heartfelt story of how circumstances force people to do things they would never think they could do in order to exist."

A reader from West Yarmouth read *The Paris Daughter* by Kristin Harmel: "I loved the book, I empathized with the characters, I can't imagine making the decisions they had to make for their families."

A reader from Randolph read *The Girl With Braided Hair* by Rasha Adly: "A work of fiction about Egypt. I enjoyed the woman of today researching a painting from 1798 when Napoleon invaded Egypt."

A reader from Barnstable read *Eastbound* by Maylis De Kerangal (Author), Jessica Moore (Translator): "Read it! Present day on the Trans-Siberian Railroad. A French woman and young Russian conscript meet for a brief moment in time. Again, it was because of this reading challenge that I picked up this particular book, so thank you!"

A reader from Beverly read *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles: "Count Rostov is under house arrest in the Metropol Hotel in Moscow, beginning in 1922. He is a compassionate and intelligent person with an odd assortment of friends in a time of great change in Russia. Though confined to the hotel, history comes to him as he lives through WW2, the Bolsheviks who keep him in his attic room and the grand hotel, and Stalinist Russia. The count saves a life and lives his own with great passion and cleverness."

A reader from Elbridge read *Homecoming* by Kate Morton: "This was a riveting family saga/mystery set in Australia. I knew where part of the story was going, but was I was not expecting the final answer to the mystery."

A reader from Merrimac read *A Tale For the Time Being* by Ruth Ozeki: "Narrated by two very different characters, a 16-year-old Japanese American girl living in Tokyo who writes a diary that ends up in the hands of a Japanese American writer living on an island off the coast of British Columbia following the devastating 2011 tsunami that hit Japan. These vastly different worlds collide in stories of Japanese history and tradition, the practice of Buddhism, and the shared understanding of finding your rightful place in the world."

A reader from Middleboro read *Every Summer After* by Carley Fortune: "This is only set in Canada but I've been meaning to read this for a while and it did NOT disappoint, so sweet, so heartfelt, so relatable and realistic for a romcom - my first 5 star book in a while!!!"

A reader from Reading read *Two Nights In Lisbon* by Chris Pavone: "Suspenseful novel with many twists and turns set in Portugal. Kept my interest through 431 pages!"

A reader from Melrose read *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins: "This book takes place across Mexico following a mother and son trying to escape to the US. Well written and thought provoking."

A reader from Palmer read *Three apples fell from the sky* by Marine Abgaryan: "Lovely story about the inhabitants of a small Armenian village. They have endured hardship, mudslides, famine, and war, but carry on living their lives with dignity and love."

A reader from Northampton read *Kingdom of the Wicked* by Kerri Maniscalco: "While it is a fantasy book, it is set in Italy - number one on my list to visit! The book definitely romanticizes the cuisine and the language in a way that is clear to the reader that the author has a deep love for her Italian heritage."

A reader from Gloucester read *Maame* by Jessica George: "I really enjoyed this story. Maddie is a relatable character that you can really connect and sympathize with. She was a former caretaker for her sick father and you cheer for her to find herself when she gets the opportunity to do so."

A reader from Amherst read *The White Mosque* by Sofia Satamar: "A fascinating look at the author's personal history as a biracial Mennonite while on a trip to Uzbekistan to learn about the history of Central Asian Mennonites."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Parting the Veil* by Paulette Kennedy: "Set in rural England, Parting the Veil is an eerie, mysterious, and atmospheric debut gothic novel full of secrets, longing, and grief. It kept me turning pages right up until its twisty conclusion."

A reader from Lowell read *The Human Element* by Loran Nordgren: "This book took me to a few locations I've never been, one being Egypt and Israel! I learned a lot about Emotional Friction when it comes to innovation and change."

A reader from Stoneham read *Uzumaki* by Junji Ito: "Horror is a genre I like a lot in my books and other media. This was incredible! Re-read it right away!"

A reader from melrose read *My What If Year* by ALISHA FERNANDEZ MIRANDA: "A little talked up and pretentious but still ok. Author pursued a year of internships without pay-not something accessible to many people!"

A reader from Lowell read *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig: "Would be a great movie. Very existential and dark."

A reader from Amherst read *Adelaide* by Genevieve Wheeler: "Pretty good first novel. A little hard to get into and sentence structure was confusing at times. Set in the London area."

A reader from North Dighton read *High Spirits* by Camille Gomera-Tavarez: "Set in both the US and the Dominican Republic, the stories in this collection feature rich characterization. The child protagonists are done justice."

A reader from Amherst read *The Edinburgh mystery and other tales of Scottish crime* by Martin Edwards, editor: "A collection of vintage mystery stories set in Scotland, which give a good sense of the landscape of the country. It was fun reading through the seventeen selections."

A reader from Longmeadow read *Kabul Beauty School* by Deborah Rodriguez: "The author, a trained cosmetologist, traveled to Afghanistan in 2002 following the fall of the Taliban to see what she could do to help. Her 'short stay' became 5 years of teaching and later directing the Kabul Beauty School. Although her experiences living and working in a country and culture so different from America were very challenging, she also tells the stories of the community of Afghan women she taught and grew to love. A wonderful eye-opening memoir that really made me appreciate being born in America!"

A reader from Gill read *Aunt Dimity and the Enchanted Cottage* by Nancy Atherton: "Very Entertaining. Interesting."

A reader from Northampton read *The Henna Artist* by Alka Joshi: "It was a quick read and contextualized a place I've never been!"

A reader from Hop read *Beartown* by Fredrik Backman: "I appreciated the bravery in some of the characters."

A reader from Wakefield read *The Highland Fling* by Meghan Quinn: "This was a light, quick romance set in Scotland. I loved the characters and that despite the fact that it was a good beach read it still had substance in the main character trying to figure out her purpose and passion in life."

A reader from Amesbury read *A monster calls* by Patrick Ness: "It was strangely darkly poetic."

A reader from Longmeadow read *Under The Tuscan Sun* by Frances Mayes: "I didn't enjoy this book as much as I was hoping I would. I know it was made into a movie people loved, so I thought there would be a little more to the story than just the house/scenery descriptions."

A reader from Centerville read *Wrong place, wrong time* by Gillian McAllister: "It took place in the UK, but the plot didn't give much attention to the country. I struggled with this book."

A reader from BEVERLY read *Breasts and Eggs* by Mieko Kawakami: "Taking place in Japan, this book involves the decisions surrounding purposeful single motherhood in a country where single women are not allowed to access sperm banks or artificial insemination."

A reader from Braintree read *The Heart's Invisible Furies* by Joyne Boyne: "Great saga of an adopted Irish boy born in the 1940's. It chronicles the trials and tribulations of being different within a family. Great read."

A reader from Methuen read *Same Time, Same Place* by David Barnett: "Set in a museum in Manchester, England this was a quick read with elements of a mystery on two levels — items are disappearing from

exhibits - but more importantly, what happened to Daisy as a child that has earned her the nickname 'Crazy Daisy.' The characters were all likable and their back stories tied the story/mystery together very neatly- if a bit too conveniently."

A reader from Wilmington read *Give unto others* by Donna Leon: "Liked it a lot. A 'detective novel' with a bigger emphasis on characters & 'Why done it' then 'who done it.' It's part of a series with Commissario Brunetti and set in Venice."

A reader from Salem read *Love and Gelato* by Jenna Evans Welch: "This was a cute and fun YA read. I don't know that I'll continue with the series but it def made me want to visit Italy!"

A reader from Topsfield read *A Guide to the Birds of East Africa* by Nicholas Drayson: "Charming story that shows the diversity of the people and wildlife in Kenya."

A reader from Worcester read *The Paris Library* by Janet Skeslien Charles: "This is a work of fiction based on true life events and people. Whether you enjoy Paris, libraries, World War 2 history or just a great read, I highly recommend this book."

A reader from Attleboro read *Sea of Tranquility* by Emily St. John Mandel: "Honestly, some aspects of this book stressed me out (time travel, space, etc.) but I really ended up enjoying how everything was tied together!"

A reader from Plymouth read *Apples Never Fall* by Liane Moriarty: "I was pleased with how the story unfolded in this mystery set in Australia."

A reader from Malden read *Lost Horizon* by James Hilton: "Set in Tibet in more of a fantasy world. Probably not the best choice for the topic. Read in High School. A bit of a fantasy."

A reader from Leominster read *The Rosie Result* by Graeme Simsion: "I had read the first two books in the series a few years ago. This book lacked the same quirky charm in addition to being painfully unrealistic in parts. At least it was set in Australia?"

A reader from Leominster read *Moonflower Murders* by Anthony Horowitz: "The beginning chapters take place on Crete before the protagonist travels to England, where both narratives are largely set. I enjoyed the book-within-a-book and how the two mysteries were tied together in numerous ways."

A reader from BERKLEY read *One of the Girls* by Lucy Clarke: "Entertaining thriller set on an island in Greece. Loved the Greek island setting - gave me a little vacation from Massachusetts. But it was too hot so glad I wasn't really there."

A reader from Hampden read *What Only we Know* by Catherine Hokin: "Nazi controlled Berlin - 1941- swept up in the story of a young Jewish woman suffering the horror of the Holocaust and how this suffering, loss and survival affect the person who survives. Intertwined is story of her daughter who knew none of her mother's story and was searching for reasons for her mother's suicide. A hidden letter opened the door to life in Berlin and her mother's real name. Very moving - story will stay with you a long time."

A reader from Greenfield read *The Sanatorium* by Sarah Pearse: "Suspense story set in the Swiss Alps. Beautiful description of the mountains but could have been any mountain range."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *The Inheritance of Orquídea Divina* by Zoraida Córdova: "Set (at least half) in Ecuador. It was twisty and surprising - I love Zoraida Córdova's work and this was no exception."

A reader from Pepperell read *Black Cake* by Charmaine Wilkerson: "Powerful story about inheritance, race, and family."

A reader from Leeds read *Hijab Butch Blues* by Lamyia H: "An interesting memoir about belonging as a young Muslim woman tries to find her place in the world as she comes out as queer."

A reader from Northfield read *If Cats Disappeared From The World* by Genki Kawamura: "Were I faced with a terminal illness, would I trade ridding the world, everyone's world, of some THING in exchange for a one day extension to my life? The Devil offers up this deal and the main character takes it 3 times ( cell phones, movies and music) but the 4th? The Japanese setting seemed irrelevant to the story which disappointed me. The book offered up things to ponder about end of life and I do plan to chat with friends/family because of those ponderings so the book did impact me."

A reader from Swansea read *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde: "I didn't expect it to be so funny! I really enjoyed it."

A reader from Wilmington read *The Sun Burnt Country* by Bill Bryson: "Bill Bryson is an excellent writer. He balances the issue with the everyday comic realities."

A reader from Spencer read *The Last Rose of Shanghai* by Weina Dai Randel: "Set in Shanghai during WW2. It tells the story of the forbidden love of a Chinese National and a Jewish refuge during the Japanese occupation."

A reader from Lowell read *The Book of Two Ways* by Jodi Picoult: "Interesting views of Egypt and the archeological processes"

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Sleepless* by Romy Hausmann: "A page turner of a "mystery/thriller" with several quirky twists. Set in Germany, the countryside and various major cities are influential in the action. I loved the complicated personal connections and moving action."

A reader from Lynnfield read *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee: "Another culture, another country. So different for me. I probably would not get the opportunity to travel to this part of the world.....so happy to read books which take me to other places."

A reader from Salem read *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* by J.K Rowling: "A classic that I enjoyed reading for the first time! I also hope to go to England one day!"

A reader from Rochester read *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park: "Although this book is written for a middle grade audience, this novel, based on the true story of a refugee from Sudan named Salva Dut, is absolutely a worthwhile read for adults."

A reader from Woburn read *Shuggie Bain* by Douglas Stewart: "I saw it on a list of the most heart wrenching books ever and wanted to give it a go. I very much enjoyed the Scottish words I was unfamiliar with."

A reader from Woburn read *The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency* by Alexander McCall Smith: "This was charming, and a lot of fun, though the stories within were a little uneven."



A reader from Wakefield read *Dinner Party* by Sarah Gilmartin: "The setting of this book is based in Ireland, a place I've wanted to visit. It centers around a woman's struggles with her family before and after the loss of her father and twin sister."

A reader from Boston read *Our Italian Summer* by Jennifer Probst: "Three generations of woman take a much need trip to Italy to repair their relationships with each other. As they travel they realize that Francesca is a workaholic who has shut her own mother and daughter out of her life favoring work over family. Allegra the daughter dislikes forced family time. Sophia the grandmother knows her daughter and granddaughter have a troubled relationship and tries everything to help them mend their relationship. I really enjoyed this book!"

A reader from Whitinsville read *Walking with Sam* by Andrew McCarthy: "I dream of the Camino and loved hearing of their journey. One day I will make it there as well."

A reader from Beverly read *Thirst* by Varsha Bajaj: "Powerful reminder of the privilege we have with access to water. Challenges reader to think about how poverty and lack of power are reinforced by institutionalized classism."

A reader from Lowell read *Heart of darkness* by Joseph Conrad: "This was a wild look into the past and how narrow our view of what constituted as humanity truly was."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Walking with Sam* by Andrew McCarthy: "I loved this book. I felt a real connection with the author in his connecting with his son on their journey through Spain. I felt a call to complete the walk in the book."

A reader from Springfield read *Weyward* by Emilia Hart: "Beautiful story that spans generations of fierce women."

A reader from Braintree read *Fruit of the Drunken Tree* by Ingrid Rojas Contreras: "This book transports you to Columbia during the time of Pablo Escobar thru the eyes of an eight year old and her family's 13 year old housekeeper. Beautifully written -a gem of a book."

A reader from Braintree read *My Sister, the Serial Killer* by Oyinkan Braithwaite: "My Sister, the Serial Killer by Oyinkan Braithwaite is set in Lagos, Nigeria, where the author lived. It's a tense story of rivalry and loyalty between two sisters -- the younger one relying on her beauty to get what she wants, and the older one -- the narrator of the story -- not beautiful, working hard as a nurse and managing the household for her sister and widowed mother. Read as literary fiction about family dynamics and trauma, it's a powerful short novel that I would recommend. If misclassified (in my opinion) as suspense fiction, it's a slow build to a dud of a climax."

A reader from Northampton read *Birnam Wood* by Eleanor Catton: "Compelling, well-written thriller that gives a real feel for New Zealand's people and countryside."

A reader from fitchburg read *Love and Ruin* by Paula McLain: "A fictionalized account about the life of Martha Gellhorn and her relationship with Hemingway. Taking place in Spain, America, Cuba, France and Finland amid the backdrop of war, this was a fascinating look into the early era of women in journalism and the obstacles they faced."

A reader from Fitchburg read *Sorry I'm Late, I Didn't Want to Come: An Introvert's Year of Living Dangerously* by Jessica Pan: "An interesting look into an unhappy introvert's journey to become more outgoing and happier."

A reader from Uxbridge read *The Mislaid Magician: Or, Ten Years After* by Patricia C. Wrede, Caroline Stevermer: "Loved this contining story between friends told through letters. It's a different universe with magicians in England."

A reader from Conway read *The Lotus Eaters* by Tatyana Soli: "This novel takes place in Vietnam during the war. It is about photographers obsession with getting the photograph that will win them a prize, and what they will do to get it. The horrors of war."

A reader from Charlton read *Jacqueline in Paris* by Ann Mah: "I enjoyed this fiction about Jacqueline Bouvier's time in Paris after WW2. A mix of historical fiction and biography."

A reader from Beverly read *Black River* by Matthew Spencer: "I enjoyed visualizing a setting that I haven't seen before. I liked the twists and turns and red herrings that the author created, but by the time I came to the ending, I felt like I could see it coming and it was abruptly done."

A reader from Chicopee read *The Diamond Eye* by Kate Quinn: "Based on a true story, a bookish History student becomes a sharp shooter on the Russian Front in World War II. And she is a woman! After losing many comrades, suffering in the cold, and having little to eat she is chosen to go to America to make speeches urging America to join the war on the European front."

A reader from Reading read *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee: "An epic story about a Korean family in Japan over 70 years. Very well written book (unsurprising as it's a National Book Award finalist) that taught me a lot about a period of history I didn't know anything about before."

A reader from Melrose read *Enchantment* by Katherine May: "Exceptional. Set in the UK, I enjoyed discovering the natural wonder of Katherines exploration."

A reader from Hampden read *One Italian Summer* by Rebecca Serle: "This was a very enjoyable and interesting, though somewhat confusing, way of making a point. The point being the need, in each of us, to find our authentic path in life."

A reader from Turners Falls read *Our Italian Summer* by Jennifer Probst: "Three generations of women travel together to Italy. A story of life, love and family. A wonderful narrative of a country I definitely need to visit."

A reader from Bolton read *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak: "This is an amazing story. Beautifully written and so impactful."

A reader from Milford read *Under the Udala Trees* by Chinelo Okparanta: "Losing the person you are over and over until you can't lose someone else."

A reader from Beverly read *Beartown* by Fredrik Backman: "It was extremely emotional and difficult to read at times but also beautiful and very interesting. I will likely read the others in this series."

A reader from Malden read *Foster* by Claire Keegan: "This was beautifully written, it was a short book but the story was captivating."

A reader from WILBRAHAM read *Fifty Words for Rain* by Asha Lemmie: "Fabulous epic story of women in the changing culture of Japan. Loved it!"

A reader from Salem read *The Wind That Lays Waste* by Selva Almada: "A wonderful short read examining faith and family through four characters pulled together by the side of the road in Argentina. And a thunderstorm."

A reader from Dartmouth read *Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See: "Love Lisa See's description of female friendships and the particular challenges and strengths that women have."

A reader from Plymouth read *Signs of Survival* by Renee Hartman: "This book should be required reading. A first person account from two sisters who survived the holocaust."

A reader from Kingston read *The London Seance Society* by Sarah Penner: "While I've never been to England, I'm quite sure I wouldn't want to visit London during Victorian times! While I loved Sarah Penner's debut novel, 'The Lost Apothecary,' her second novel didn't meet my expectations."

A reader from Franklin read *The Darkness* by Ragnar Jonasson: "I chose this book because I'm interested in Iceland, but have never been there. Only 2/3 done and so far it's fairly good---not as good as some of my fave thrillers, but still captures my interest."

A reader from Harrisburg read *The Bear and the Nightingale* by Katherine Arden: "I was unsure at first, but I really loved the ending to this book. It's set in the Russian wilderness which I would assume is a fairly bleak landscape, but Arden really managed to capture some magic in it and I'm looking forward to reading the next two books."

A reader from Salem read *An Untamed State* by Roxane Gay: "Hauntingly beautiful story of a woman losing herself to abuse. Tells the trials she faces as she comes back to her family and tries to go back to 'normal'."

A reader from Salem read *State of Wonder* by Ann Patchett: "An adventurous read."

A reader from Billerica read *How The Light Gets In* by Louise Penny: "Love this series - set in Quebec Canada."

A reader from Reading read *The Jukebox Queen of Malta* by Nicholas Ronaldo: "I was planning a trip to Malta and knew little about it so thought I'd pick up a novel and get some atmosphere. But this book wasn't great. Boy meets girl (during the war), boy loses girl, war is hell. There's not much about jukeboxes to justify the title either."

A reader from Gill read *The Girl with the Louding Voice* by Abi Dare: "An absorbing read on growing up poor and female in Nigeria."

A reader from Scituate read *Daisy Miller* by Henry James: "It was an old book and I was glad I read an electronic copy so I could look up words!"

A reader from Hudson read *One Italian Summer-a novel* by Rebecca Serle: "A moving story of a daughter's love for her mother. Dealing with her loss/ grief when her mother dies of cancer she travels to Italy. The duo had planned trip to Italy where the mother spent time before meeting & marrying her

dad. The daughter decides to go on the trip alone- in doing so she makes many discoveries & ultimately finds out how to heal and live a life without her.”

A reader from Weymouth read *The Kite Runner* by Khalid Hosseini: “Poignant tale of two young boys Amir and Hassan, in Kabul during a tumultuous time. Amir is racked with guilt after abandoning Hassan after a brutal attack. He tries to atone for his inaction later in life by bringing Hassan’s son to the US. The themes of guilt and redemption, relationships and honor are relatable to people everywhere. An excellent book!”

A reader from Lowell read *The Turn of the Key* by Ruth Ware: “I enjoyed this book, I didn’t see the twist coming.”

A reader from Bourne read *A Cracked Spine* by Paige Shelton: “Really enjoyed the American's move to Scotland. Good mystery with me learning a lot about Scotland.”

A reader from Holbrook read *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck: “John Steinbeck has been my favorite writer since I first read *Travels with Charley* when I was 12 or 13 years old I have read several times over, great Steinbeck classics *The Grapes of Wrath*, *East of Eden*, etc etc. interestingly, I never read *The Pearl*. For this challenge, I read *The Pearl*. This very short novel is a cautionary tale about our wishes and desires and the evil that can occur when we get what we want. In other words be careful of what you wish for and be happy with the joys in your life...”

A reader from Weymouth read *Tales From The Cafe Before the Coffee Gets Cold Series* by Toshikazu Kawaguchi: “I loved *Tales From The Cafe*. There was a lesson at the end that everyone has good and bad times.”

A reader from Harwich read *Brotherless Night* by V. V. Ganeshanathan: “*Brotherless Night*, by V.V. Ganeshanathan, took me to Sri Lanka during the Civil War (1983-2009) - “an intermittent insurgency” against the government. The narrator, Sashi Kulenthiren, lives in Jaffna, a Tamil-majority city, where friends and family fight for a separate Tamil homeland. Satisfyingly site-specific, this is a compelling read: character driven, historically accurate, beautifully written.”

A reader from Erving read *Girl with the Louding Voice* by Abi Dare: “Horrorific and inspirational, all at once!”

A reader from Weymouth read *My Four Seasons in France* by Janine Marsh: “A delightful book written by a British Banker who takes a wine buying trip to France with her father and her spouse and ends up buying a fixer upper in Northern France. Makes me want to book a flight to France now.”

A reader from Gill read *A Rover's Story* by Jasmine Warga: “I chose this book as it is on the Vermont Golden Dome list. Although I should read a book set in a different country, this is set in the USA. As I haven't finished the book, I am not sure where else the plot will take place, but the lead character of the story is a space rover being built to be sent to Mars. Seems as some of the plot will take place there. And I have not visited Mars.”

A reader from SCITUATE read *Fatal Isles* by Maria Adolfsson: “This won the 2022 Petrona Award for Best Scandinavian Crime Novel of the Year. The author created interesting, complex characters. The setting is in Scandinavia, but on the Doggerland islands that are (in reality) submerged in the North Sea. I felt it was an inspired idea for the author to use that as her setting.”

A reader from Worcester read *The House of the Spirits* by Isabel Allende: "Haunting and sadly all too topical forty years later."

A reader from Springfield read *Boyfriend Material* by Alexis Hall: "Taking place in England, this book is partly how celebrity isn't truly all it's choked up to be and mostly a romance between two beautifully flawed but sweet men. I loved how this book while using the guise of a fake dating troupe shows how emotional damage doesn't mean you can't move forward and allow more people in."

A reader from Middleboro read *Wrong place wrong time* by Gillian McAllister: "An interesting thriller that takes place in the UK involving a time loop which allows a mother to attempt to stop her son from becoming a murderer."

A reader from Atkinson read *Under the Naga Tail: A True Story of Survival, Bravery, and Escape from the Cambodian Genocide* by Mae Bunseng Tiang and James Tiang: "This true story is both awe-inspiring and heartbreaking. At times it was difficult to read, but it speaks to the strong human will to survive."

A reader from Attleboro read *Love and Gelato* by Jenna Evans Welch: "This was an excellent book that I could not put down! It was mysterious, romantic, and it helped me learn some things about Italy, a country I hope to visit someday!"

A reader from Beverly read *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Christy Lefteri: "Beautiful and heartbreaking. Set in Syria during the war, it is a real and brutal look at the effects of war on civilians. This should be required reading."

A reader from Enfield read *Solitaire* by Alice Oseman: "Absolutely love everything by Alice Oseman! Solitaire is one of my favorites so far."

A reader from Yorba Linda read *The Moon Sister* by Lucinda Riley: "An intriguing story which takes place partly in Africa and is part of the fabulous "The Missing Sisters" series. Suspense, history, romance, family, life!"

A reader from Plainville read *Tears of the Sun* by Nora Roberts: "I love her trilogies and I love how this book took me to Ireland where my family comes from and I've always wanted to visit."

A reader from Norwell read *The Accusation* by Bandi: "A collection of short stories highlighting the unbearably oppressive state of North Korea. Written by a man who has lived in North Korea his entire life, the manuscript was smuggled out of the country at great risk."

A reader from Boston read *Aunt Julia and the Scriptwriter* by Mario Vargas Llosa: "Really entertaining and great characters."

A reader from Sutton read *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris: "I was so amazed that a true story about the Holocaust had aspects of love and hope that made me feel as if I was reading a love story among all of the horror and despair that was happening."

A reader from Wilmington read *Spare* by Prince Harry: "I thought this book was really great. I didn't have any idea what the meaning of the title was until I read the book. I feel really bad for Prince Harry and Megan."

A reader from Forestdale read *Outlander* by Diana Gabaldon: "I've heard so much about these books and of course the show. I loved this book. Now I have been to Scotland in my mind thanks to this book. What a great historical fiction. Steeped in Scottish traditions but yet on the cusp of losing it all, while falling in love with the two lead characters. I am now on the band wagon and must read more."

A reader from Chelmsford read *The Bandit Queens* by Parini Shroff: "This novel set in India tells the story of women in a small village dealing with abusive spouses, the caste system, and women's total lack of any rights. How the women deal with these issues is humorous, suspenseful, and ultimately empowering. A truly enlightening and enjoyable read."

A reader from Lowell read *Once Upon a Wardrobe* by Patti Callahan: "It was a nice, leisurely read. A nice step back in time and perfect for tuning out current world events."

A reader from dedham read *The Mitford Affair* by Marie benedict: "This is based on a true story of British debutante sisters and their lives between the two World Wars. Great story telling!"

A reader from Hopkinton read *Forged* by Benedict Jacka: "The book was set mainly in England but also had trips to Wales and Scotland. It was #11 in a series that I have been reading."

A reader from Sandwich read *The Memoirs of Stockholm Sven* by Nathaniel Ian Miller: "Sven Ormson's search to 'find himself' takes him to one of the most isolated island within the Arctic circle. He seeks remoteness, but at the same time he fears it. Through a cast of emotionally challenged characters, who drift in and out of his life, he experiences friendship, kindness, empathy, acceptance and love amidst brutal frigid weather."

A reader from Barnstable read *The Phone Booth at the Edge of the World* by Laura Imani Messina: "Really fascinating read. Contemplates the topic of grief and how it varies for different people yet how it can pull people together. Simple yet powerful prose that makes for an easy but thoughtful read."

A reader from STOUGHTON read *Five Midnights* by Ann Davila Cardinal: "Characters were interesting, but writing was not engaging."

A reader from South Hadley read *Season of the Jew* by Maurice Shadbolt: "Set in mid-19th century New Zealand this book underscores the age-old story of Europeans seeking to colonize indigenous peoples. Men of integrity do indeed exist, in all times and places but in war they can depart disillusioned."

A reader from Danvers read *Lady Tan's Circle of Women* by Lisa See: "I unexpectedly LOVED this book! So glad these monthly categories pushed me to select a book I wouldn't have picked otherwise! It's fictional tale of the real-life Tan Yunxian, a female Chinese physician during the Ming dynasty. A lovely book I couldn't put down, full of wonderful details, the author must have done extensive research."

A reader from Melrose read *Birnam Wood* by Eleanor Catton: "I'm not sure I've ever read a book set in New Zealand before, and this is a doozy. It has terrific prose, characters, and plot - I see why the author has already won the Booker Prize."

A reader from Sandwich read *The Mountains Sing* by Nguyen Phan Que Mai: "Heartbreaking story about the struggles of the Vietnamese peoples across the years. Told beautifully through narrative style."

A reader from Winthrop read *Juno Loves Legs* by Karl Geary: "A heartbreaking beautiful story about growing up in Dublin - sparse writing that did not feel voyeuristic but authentic."

A reader from Melrose read *The Blackbird Girls* by Anne Blankman: "This book can be found in both children's and teen departments at the library and I was so glad my colleague recommended it after I finished it. It's a story of two girls and their experience of the Chernobyl explosion in just the next town over. It's heartbreaking, it's funny, it's hopeful, and it's a positive ending for the struggles all the (important) characters endured. Have to say, I've never hated parents more in a book than Oksana's so brace yourself if you decide to read. Loved this book!"

A reader from Hopkinton read *Please Look After Mom* by Shin Kyung-Sook: "I found this book somewhat tedious, the mother too saintly, and her family way too oblivious until she went missing. It tried too hard to pull heartstrings."

A reader from HAMPDEN read *Alive* by Piers Paul Read: "I thought this true story was absolutely proof of what people can do with faith. An astounding account of young people praying and surviving the worst of conditions. Very inspiring."

A reader from Brockton read *Fifty Words For Rain* by Asha Lemmie: "This book was set in Japan, post WWII. It is a compelling story of a girl growing up facing prejudice from her own family."

A reader from Somerville read *Swallowing Mercury* by Wioletta Greg: "A collection of vignettes about growing up in Poland in the 1980s, I found this to be a welcoming slice-of-life featuring a relatable kid just trying to figure life out."

A reader from Amesbury read *Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie: "Fusty, but fun."

A reader from Seekonk read *Deadly Quiet City: True Stories from Wuhan* by Murong Xuecun: "This book tells the stories of those who fled, returned to help or were infected with Covid-19 as it emerged in Wuhan, China."

A reader from Taunton read *The Door to Door Bookstore* by Carsten Henn: "Carl Kollhopf loses his bookstore job, but with the help of a 9 year old, he continues to deliver the "perfect" book to his former customers. It speaks to the amazing power of friendship, and, of course, BOOKS!"

A reader from Northampton read *Normal People* by Sally Rooney: "It was a refreshing take on romance through a nearly hyperrealistic lense of the imperfection and almost-maybe's that are more common than picture-perfect tales."

A reader from Yarmouth read *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie* by M. Schaffer and A. Barrows: "I need to take a ferry to Guernsey, an island in the English Channel. The English did not defend her during WW2 and this led to an occupation by the Germans. Love, war and friendships....all set on a beautiful island."

A reader from Hampden read *Looking for Trouble* by Jess Lea: "It was set in a country within Australia which is a place I have always want to go. The book itself was okay but long."

A reader from Beverly read *The Alice Network* by Kate Quinn: "Fascinating!"

A reader from Weymouth read *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* by Lisa See: "Very interesting story and learned a lot about Chinese culture, especially related to females."

A reader from Boxford read *Behind the Beautiful Forevers* by Katherine Boo: "Exceptional book set in India, very sad but informative."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *A Dublin Student Doctor* by Patrick Taylor: "Enjoyed hearing about the Irish countryside and the medical training of a doctor many years ago."

A reader from Auburn read *Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe: "From devastation to isolation to preservation with an admix of revelation this story stands the test of time as a literary classic."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Murder She Wrote- Death on the Emerald Isle* by Jessica Fletcher, Terrie Moran: "I enjoyed this book and the description of cities and villages of Ireland. The beginning of the book showcases an event in Belfast at the Titanic Museum. Knowing someone who did survive the Titanic disaster, I was uncomfortable reading this part. Otherwise, it was pretty good, although I did guess who the murderer was..."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Murder She Wrote- Death on the Emerald Isle* by Jessica Fletcher, Terrie Moran: "I enjoyed this book but did guess the murderer pretty easily. I liked the descriptions of Ireland."

A reader from Spencer read *An Italian love story : surprise and joy on the Amalfi Coast* by Shaw, James Ernest: "I feel like I've travelled to the Amalfi Coast. This book brings the local life, people, smells and scenery to life."

A reader from Melrose read *The Interpreter's Daughter* by Teresa Lim: "I was surprised to hear of the beautiful young great aunt of Teresa Lim who declared herself a "sworn spinster," taking a vow of celibacy. This was a choice that, once made, could not be changed. This woman devoted herself to her family and their children."

A reader from Lancaster read *The sunshine and biscotti club* by Jenny Oliver: "I'm not normally one for cutesy, ensemble-cast, rom-com novels, but this one was genuinely good. There are solid dynamics between each character and it's just a feel-good book all around. The world needs more stories like this!"

A reader from Beverly read *The No.1 Ladies' Detective Agency* by Alexander McCall Smith: "A very satisfying read that takes place in Botswana. The main character is wonderfully written and the story kept me engaged all the way through. A very good mystery novel and I've already started to read the other books in the series."

A reader from North Reading read *What Alice Forgot* by Liane Moriarty: "This book was set in Australia, and I'm not sure that I've ever read a book set in Australia before. It was interesting when they began talking about things that happened in certain seasons, because the weather was the opposite of what it would be here. The story is about a woman who loses ten years of her memory, essentially resetting back to her previous self. It was very easy to read, though I thought the ending wrapped things up a little too nicely."

A reader from North Reading read *The Mysterious Affair At Styles* by Agatha Christie: "This book was interesting, but the other two that I've read by her had more intriguing endings. Also, I'm still disappointed with the touch of racism that's ever-present in her storytelling."



A reader from SUTTON read *My Oxford Year* by Julia Whelan: "After listening to several books narrated by Julia Whelan, I realized that she is an author herself! I enjoyed listening to this book narrated by the author."

A reader from Lunenburg read *The DaVinci Code* by Dan Brown: "Fast paced and keeps me engaged."

A reader from Hopedale read *The Hunting Party* by Lucy Foley: "Very slow, was expecting more action/thriller for a book titled *The Hunting Party*. Set in the Scottish Highlands, a country I've never visited, there wasn't a bug description of scene. Growing up in Maine, I kind if pictured those woods and snow in my mind."

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A reader from Holbrook read *Dalvi* by Laura Galloway: "I loved reading about the anartica. How they take care of reindeers!"

A reader from Belchertown read *The Light of Days* by Judy Batalion.

A reader from Erving read *The Sea* by John Banville: "Loved the ending. Not an easy book to read as the present and multiple times in the narrators past were all woven together without clear delineation. Set in Ireland but not much about Ireland other than some of the language."

A reader from Cambridge read *Secondhand Time* by Svetlana Alexievich: "Fascinating interviews from 1991 - 2012 with Russian citizens about life in post-Soviet Russia."

A reader from Reading read *The Night Tiger* by Yangsze Choo: "It's a historical fiction novel with a bit of magical realism told that follows the story of two characters united by mysterious circumstances. The pacing was slow to start, but it's pretty good."

A reader from Reading read *The Rachel Incident* by Caroline: "It's a novel about a young woman in Ireland learning to be an adult while also navigating complex friendships and relationships. I enjoyed Rachel's introspection."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *My Pen is the Wing of a Bird* by A selection of Afghan Women: "This is a wonderful selection of short stories told by Afghan women showcasing a variety of lived experiences. They're raw and unflinching--many are stories of pain and heartache, whether in daily life in unequal gender relationships, or during the fog of war. It definitely puts life in perspective."

A reader from Fitchburg read *Bel Canto* by Ann Patchett: "This book was truly a modern classic. I love her writing style. It is about love and opera and how people learn to communicate, under stress, and across cultural and language barriers."

A reader from Braintree read *Meet Me at the Lake* by Carley Fortune: "Great quick summer romance novel that takes you to a quintessential lake resort in Canada that everyone has visited once in their life for a summer holiday."

A reader from West Yarmouth read *The Waratah Inn* by Lilly Mirren: "Chose this book as it is set in Australia which I've never been and would love to visit. Story is set in Cabarita Beach coastal town in Australia. Author does a great job touching on landscape and details of local culture and food enjoyed the story of the 3 sisters and their mystery they discovered about their grandmother after inheriting her inn. Discovered this book is a series so will have to obtain the other 2 books to see how the storyline ends. However, first book is great and keeps you interested until very end."

A reader from Belchertown read *Passenger to Frankfurt* by Agatha Christie: "Be careful! This particular book, published towards the end of a marvelous career, is not your typical Agatha Christie Who Done It. It is a commentary by Ms. Christie as to the state of the world reflecting what was happening when the book went to print: student unrest, war, unstable economies, intrigue, national manipulation all set earlier in time. I could not help think of today's news headlines as I turned page after page with the idea that events ARE the result of certain hands muddying the waters. If you wish a more deliberate book, you can't ask for more than *Passenger to Frankfurt*. Ms. Christie makes you work long and hard to solve the mystery."

A reader from Halifax read *I'll Find You* by Nancy Bush: "I enjoyed learning a bit about Martinique where a good portion of this book was set."

A reader from Fairhaven read *My Italian Bulldozer* by McCall Smith, Alexander: "I loved this book! I presented this one and it's companion title "The Second-Worst Restaurant in France" at my bookclub. The characters were relatable, the descriptions of the scenery were beautiful, and the idea of driving around the countryside on a bulldozer was inventive and humorous."

A reader from Beverly read *When We Had Wings* by Lawton, Meissner, McMorris: "This book was set in the Philippines. I appreciate the balance of the personal stories with the historical information. Some parts were a bit difficult to follow but overall, I enjoyed this book!"

A reader from Plymouth read *Dele Weds Destiny* by Tomi Obaro: "A beautiful tale of female friendship across decades and distances. The choices that define us don't always tell the whole story."

A reader from Northborough read *River Sing Me Home* by Eleanor Shearer: "Great book! Takes place in Barbados, British Guiana (now Guyana), and Trinidad."

A reader from Saugus read *Outlander* by Dana Gabaldon: "I really enjoyed the world building in this book. It makes me really want to go visit Scotland."

A reader from Middleborough read *Captive In Iran* by Maryam Rostampour and Marziyeh Amirzadah: "Inspiring book about the courage of two women who stand firm in their faith."

A reader from Reading read *SHAME* by Taslima Nasrin: "SHAME is a very interesting but sad novel, about the life of minorities in Bangladesh. For writing this book, the author Dr. Taslima Nasrin had to flee Bangladesh."

A reader from Beverly read *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan: "In the beginning I thought it was ok... but the middle really grabbed my attention and then the end was also kind of boring. I wouldn't recommend this book and my friends didn't like it either. Although the beautiful description caught my eye I didn't like this story."

A reader from Lunenburg read *Little Bee* by Chris Cleave: "This book will break your heart. It is a challenging read but is a story that is all too common."

A reader from Braintree read *Lady Tan's Circle of Women* by Lisa See: "Interesting story of a girl growing up in China in the 1400s."

A reader from Franklin read *Blood Rose Rebellion* by Rosalyn Eves: "I enjoyed the mix of real life social class separation from the 1800s and magic. The author took history and added fantasy. While the book took place in real world Hungary, it felt like a fantasy world that could actually exist."

A reader from Guyton read *Turn of the screw* by Henry James: "I'm glad I read it since it was a classic, but I thought it would be better/scarer."

A reader from Worcester read *Hungry Ghosts* by Kevin Jared Hosein: "I am filled with tremendous sadness and yet also a state of wonder at the close of this book. The story carried me along, transfixed, while I read and haunted me while I was away from it."

A reader from Ipswich read *Spare* by Prince Harry: "I enjoyed reading this autobiography which gave me insight into royal life...something I would never want to experience."

A reader from South Dennis read *The island of Sea Women* by Lisa see: "It took me 2 months to read but was a great book."

A reader from Tewksbury read *Outlander* by Diana Gabaldon: "It was an engaging read. Lots of my friends recommended the series and since I haven't yet visited Scotland, it fit the category. I will probably read the rest of the series."

A reader from Tewksbury read *The Path Between the Seas* by David McCullough: "Mr. McCullough is one of my favorite authors. This particular book started off rather tediously (mostly political). By the end it had picked up considerably."

A reader from Belchertown read *A Harmless Lie* by Sara Blaedel: "I have been following this series set in Denmark of police detective Louise Rick and her journalist best friend Camilla Lind for many years. Always a good plot and entertaining read."

A reader from WAKEFIELD read *White Chrysthanium* by Mary Lynn Bracht: "A beautifully written and haunting book"

A reader from ROCHESTER read *River of the Gods: Genius, Courage, and Betrayal in the Search for the Source of the Nile* by Candice Millard: "It's a tangled tale of courage and adventure of keenly flawed explorers amid colonial exploration. It's such an outstanding narrative that the next book I read was her "Destiny of the Republic", also a fresh and meticulously researched account of a completely different subject."

A reader from Salem read *Paradis* by Fernanda melchor: "Gem of a find."

A reader from Santa Cruz read *Winter in Sokcho* by Elisa Shua Dusapin: "Loved this book set in a tourist town on the border of south and North Korea. A young French-Korean woman living and working in Sokcho meets a French graphic novelist and they share a relationship of common and uncommon interests and experiences. Wonderfully written."

A reader from Andover read *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* by Lisa See: "This book evokes a different place and time and fills it with meaning and emotion. It tells of a China from years ago but with tantalizing glimpses of why the present is as it is."

A reader from Wakefield read *The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency* by Alexander McCall Smith: "My knowledge of Africa is severely limited so I was glad to have a reason to read a book set in one of its countries."

A reader from Franklin read *Flawless* by Elise Hu: "This was a fascinating and very readable look at the Koren beauty industry - both the history of K-beauty and its pervasive effects on the culture today."

A reader from Reading read *Homesickness* by Colin Barrett: "All but one of these short stories took place in Ireland, a country on my bucket list."

A reader from Beverly read *A Room Called Earth* by Madeleine Ryan: "This book is set in Australia at Christmas & revolves around a single party and how it's processed by an autistic woman. The writer herself is autistic, which is what made me choose the book. It was good, but I wish the character had been given a name."

A reader from Easthampton read *The Angel makers* by Patti McCracken: "Very interesting true crime book about arsenic poisoning done by a midwife in a small Eastern European village."

A reader from Malden read *Muppets in Moscow* by Natasha Lance Rogoff: "Super interesting to learn more about what was going on in Russia just after the fall of communism and how Sesame Street was trying to help the children with their show."

A reader from Swansea read *The Good Left Undone* by Adriana Trigiani: "Italy - modern times and World War II. Its beauty and its travails under Mussolini and the Nazis. A journey into the world of Tuscan artisans, three generations with stories and secrets. three generations who epitomize the love of family."

A reader from Plymouth read *Bangkok Wakes To Rain* by Pitchaya Sudbanthad: "I have always loved Thai food but never immersed myself much in the culture. This book has beautiful, intertwining stories set in Thailand that consider the past, present, and future of this fascinating place."

A reader from Lynnfield read "*One Italian Summer*" by Rebecca Serle: ""One Italian Summer" is beautifully written and paints an authentic and magical picture of the real-life town of Positano in Italy, which is now on my bucket list. While I had complaints with a few of the characters and story elements, I liked its overall message about moving on from the death of a loved one and its ending."

A reader from Hampden read *I Survived the Nazi Invasion, 1944* by Lauren Tarshis: "This was from the "I Survived" series for children. told from a 11 year old's point of view about the Nazi invasion. great illustrations. well written."

A reader from Lowell read *Outlander* by Diana Gabaldon: "I knew little to nothing about Scottish history so this book was a good piece of historical fiction in that regard. That being said, I did not love the characters all that much. I know people rave about the series, but I had a hard time plodding through this one."

A reader from Hampden read *Poland* by James Michener: "What a massive undertaking Michener took in put together the history of Poland seen through several centuries through the lives of three different

but connected families. This historical novel gave me a much better perspective on my own family and attitudes about many events that occurred in Central Europe.”

A reader from Franklin read *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi: “This book was so wonderful - so thoughtfully laid out. I was enveloped in every person’s story; so rich in detail and heart.”

A reader from Sandwich read *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi: “An incredibly moving story with a truly phenomenal structure.”

A reader from Sandwich read *The Pilgrimage* by Paulo Coelho: “This book made you definitely think about your own life. Why are we here and what we make of it. It was truly a good book.”

A reader from Bourne read *Death in Brittany* by Jean-Luc Bannalec: “I have never been to France/Brittany. This is the first book in a mystery series set in Brittany. I really enjoyed learning more about this area and liked the series/characters so much that I have already read the next book in the series which is *Murder on Brittany Shores*. I was also planning on reading *My Life in France* by Julia Child this month for my book club but we have postponed our meeting till next month, so I will visit France again then.”

A reader from East Falmouth read *Eleanor oliphant is completely fine* by Gail Honeyman: “Mental Health, good friends, and someone who actually listens are so important. What a peculiar but good book!”

A reader from Taunton read *Modern Greece* by Elaine Thomopoulos: “Very informative book about the citizens of Greece.”

A reader from Hartland read *Anna Karenina* by Leo Tolstoy: “Well described family relations. The double standard that allows wayward men to continue to mingle in society while ostracizing wayward women is difficult to stomach.”

A reader from Hartland read *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towels: “Very well written - a compelling, rich read.”

A reader from Lowell read *Blue Skinned Gods* by SJ Sindu: “I’m still processing the ending, the deep betrayal of not just religious faith but family as well, and how so much of life is shaped by our own beliefs and environments.”

A reader from Leominster read *The yellow envelope* by Kim dinen: “I found the narrator to be a bit condescending. I liked the overall story about finding oneself and being accepting of cultures.”

A reader from Amherst read *Swimming in the Dark* by Tomasz Jedrowski: “A star-crossed lovers story set in the communist Poland of the 80s, the book is a reflexion of a deep infatuation that crosses the barriers of ideology and politics. The depiction of both the poverty in Poland and its treatment of homosexuality is both precise and compassionate.”

A reader from Norton read *The Grief Nurse* by Angie Spoto: “This book IS about a wealthy family living on an island off the coast of Scotland. People with money and power were able to have in their employ Grief Nurses. The Nurses’ one job was to “remove” the grief experienced by their employer. In the process, several deaths occurred. A tale of mysticism served up with a mystery on the side. It was an interesting concept; however, the ending was a bit muddled.”

A reader from Wakefield read *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles: "It's a story about a former aristocrat under arrest in a grand hotel for decades, it's not exactly a page turner, but if you're a sucker for feel good stories about "the family you choose," this is a good one. Also an interesting viewpoint from inside post-Revolution Russia that we don't see much in the States."

A reader from Sagamore Beach read *Before Your Memory Fades* by Toshikazu Kawaguchi: "I choose this book as it is located a Japan a place I have wanted to visit. The characters are Japanese in a town in a Cafe. Fascinating story about what would you change if you could travel in time."

A reader from Springfield read *When Stars are Scattered* by Victoria Jamieson: "This is a graphic novel based on a true story of 2 Somali brothers in a refugee camp. Their experience was told in a heart-tugging, personal and realistic way without any agendas. I liked that there was humor and a choice to have joy despite their circumstances. I would recommend to any 5th grader & up and adults as well."

A reader from Attleboro read *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris: "I couldn't believe this was based on a true story. People doing their best to survive and finding small joys in the horror."

A reader from Granby read *Murder in an Irish pub* by Carlene OConnor: "It was very good. It kept you guessing who the murder was."

A reader from Holden read *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* by William Kamkwamba: "The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind is the story of William Kamkwamba, a young man who grew up in Malawi. Like hundreds of thousands of Malawians, William's family was totally dependent on the annual maize and tobacco harvests for their survival. After one particularly bad year, William decided to figure out how he could build a windmill which would bring electricity to his father's farm and with it, the security of irrigation for the crop. William's story of tenacity, brilliance, and scrappiness is one I enjoyed greatly! I recommend this book highly."

A reader from Wakefield read *French Kids Eat Everything* by Karen Le Billion: "This book was enlightening about how the French raise their kids and how different not only the cuisine but their outlook of the act of eating is from Americans. Cloth table linens and flatware starting with toddlers and continued through school made by true chefs!"

A reader from Woburn read *My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry* by Fredrik Backman: "This book takes place in Sweden, a country I've never visited but would love to! The story was a bit slow getting started but I enjoyed it."

A reader from Falmouth read *Buachaille: at home in the Highlands* by Kate Davies: "A delightful blend of knitting patterns, recipes and travel essays with stunning photography."

A reader from Weymouth read *If I Had Your Face* by Frances Cha: "The story is set in South Korea and portrays how fiercely hostile the culture is towards women. Feminine beauty is tantamount as is wealth, and while many cultures "require" women to be perfect physical specimens, this took it to a whole other level. For instance, women routinely go into debt to have cosmetic surgery to shave their jawlines. Ultimately the friendships that develop among five women redeems the difficulties that they endure."

A reader from Harwich read *Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead* by Olga Tokarczuk: "This book took place in Poland with some side trips to the Czech Republic — never been to either country. Lovely book — mystery set in a small town with fascinating characters and a philosophical twist."

A reader from Franklin read *Love and Gelato* by Jenna Evans Welch: "Love and Gelato is a charming read. The book reads quickly and easily; I did not want to stop reading. It is predictable at times, but also handles some complex situations and emotions. I like the way the author paints a picture, so that the reader can "see" the various famous Italian sites and gorgeous Italian countryside she describes so well. Now I plan to watch the movie with my daughter!"

A reader from Billerica read *Miracle in Seville* by James A Michener: "The illustrations really added to the story."

A reader from Scituate read *The uninvited guests* by Sadie Jones: "I enjoyed the manners, styles, clothing and language of 100 years ago in England. The class differences were quite starkly presented."

A reader from Concord read *Depth of Winter* by Craig Johnson: "2nd Longmire related book read; not as interesting as the first one; book is considered a mystery book but didn't seem to have much of the typical mystery to it."

A reader from Beverly read *The Henna Artist* by Alka Joshi: "An interesting story of a young woman's struggles with India's society and caste systems in the 1950s and creating her own found family."

A reader from CHICOPEE read *The Little Italian Hotel* by Phaedra Patrick: "I liked it because it was a light, fun read. It also had a very open ended realistic ending as opposed to a "happily ever after" ending. It inspired me to want to visit Italy and see all the sights and taste all the delicious sounding food it has to offer. It reminded me that none of us ever really have it all together."

A reader from CHICOPEE read *The Little Italian Hotel* by Phaedra Patrick: "I thought the book was a fun, light summer read with a very realistic ending instead of your typical "happily ever after" ending. It made me really want to visit Italy all the more to see the sights and taste the food."

A reader from Haverhill read *Road Of Bones* by Christopher Golden: "Although I wished there was more history on the Road of Bones itself, the terrifying local folklore kept me reeled in."

A reader from Shutesbury read *Anna Karenina* by Leo Tolstoy: "I loved this book about the inner workings of a few folks in high society Russia dealing with the meaning of life."

A reader from Shutesbury read *The number one ladies detective agency* by Alexander McCall Smith: "I love this book, first in a series about a woman who sets up a private detective agency on the edge of the Kalahari desert in Africa after her father dies and her marriage fails. She reads a book about how To Be a detective and goes from there."

A reader from East Bridgewater read *The Rent Collector* by Camron Wright: "The end of this story was redeeming, but I felt like the first 3/4 moved a bit too slow for my liking and I struggled to stay engaged. I did really enjoy this prompt, though, and the ability to immerse myself in a country I've never been."

A reader from Brookline read *The Wrong End of the Telescope* by Rabbi Alameddine: "Read this on a recommendation and really enjoyed it! A fascinating read on many different worlds that I both enjoyed and learned from."

A reader from Worcester read *Speak of the Devil* by Rose Wilding: "I don't normally read adult thrillers, so this book was way outside my comfort zone and way grittier than anything I've ever read. I definitely

didn't expect the twist at the end, and throughout the whole thing, I was very effectively kept absolutely furious.”

A reader from Lowell read *The Guest List* by Lucy Foley: “This book sets place on a remote island off the coast of Ireland and helps create an eerie atmosphere for this thriller! I struggled to put it down!”

A reader from Springfield read *The Widows of Malabar Hill* by Sujata Massey: “Very insightful of life in India in the early 20th century. Women were treated as possessions with no rights. Kind of disturbing in parts of the story.”

A reader from SPRINGFIELD read *Tokyo Ueno Station* by Yu Miri: “It was very sad but very beautifully written. It's about a Japanese man who has a very hard life, loses his wife and son, ends up homeless, and then dies. I found it to be very poetic, and the theme of how we lose touch with each other as human beings hit deep.”

A reader from Melbourne read *Two Nights in Lisbon* by Chris Pavone: “Set in Portugal (most of the book), but could be anywhere, this is a multicultural thriller. I was expecting an immersion into a foreign country, but found that with modern communication, the only thing that was foreign were the names and very old architecture.”

A reader from Belchertown read *Before We We're Free* by Julia Alvarez: “This middle grade telling of Trujillo's dictatorship creates a bridge between Alvarez's previous novels, *In the Time of the Butterflies* and *How the Garcia Girls Lost their Accents*.”

A reader from Beverly read *The High Mountains of Portugal* by Yann Martel: “I really liked some of the situations and ideas, but I didn't like everything in this book. It still was a perfect choice however. I haven't been to Portugal but I'm hoping to go soon.”

A reader from Reading read *Portrait of a Scotsman* by Evie Dunmore: “This was a more feminist and socialist *Beauty and the Beast*. It made me want to visit Scotland!”

A reader from Arlington read *Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese: “This book transported me to parts of India that I hadn't read about before. The characters and the setting immersed me in the story and the 700 plus pages flew by.”

A reader from MARSTONS MILLS read *Island of Shattered Dreams* by Chantal T. Spitz: “Tragic yet beautiful love story and the horrible colonisation of a people while a nuclear power plant was being built on their land.”

A reader from SOUTH YARMOUTH read *A Good Year* by Peter Mayle: “It was a good read with a few twists. A bit predictable, but some good information on food and wine customs of France. (Looking forward to my first trip there in July!)”

A reader from Salem read *Buzz Aldrin, What Happened To You In All The Confusion?* by Johan Harstad: “While it's a relatively slow paced book, the writing itself is very beautiful and feels effortless in how it tells the story.”

A reader from Syracuse read *Zabelle* by Nancy Kricorian: “Great but sad, a little too close to my own family story. Hoping to visit Armenia one day.”



A reader from NORTHAMPTON read *WILD BY NATURE* by MARQUIS, SARAH: "GREAT STORIES, THE PEOPLE, THE NATURE. THE TRAVELING WITH HER CART HER POOR LEGS BUT SHE MADE IT HOME TO HER TREE. THE WEATHER DEFINATELY WAS A CHALLENGE. CONGRATS TO MS MARQUIS. I WISH I COULD GO TO PART OF IT (TRIP)."

A reader from northfield read *the green road* by anne enright: "I was interested in this book because it took place in multiple countries, but mainly because it starts and ends in ireland. i found it quite slow actually and it took me the entire month to read it. by the end it picked up. but i would not recommend this book."

A reader from Fitchburg read *The Plum Tree* by Ellen Marie Wiseman: "A powerful book that took place in Germany. It touches upon the German people who weren't Nazis. The people that did not follow Hitler's beliefs."

A reader from Fitchburg read *The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency* by Alexander McCall Smith: "The different setting of another country added to the richness of the story."

A reader from Rockland read *The Arctic Fury* by Grerr Macallister: "This amazing historical novel is full of adventure and intrigue! Set in the mid-1800s, this presents a fictional search Party – comprised entirely of women – hunting for the Franklin party in the arctic circle. Franklin was one of many in search of the Northwest Passage. Boston is featured prominently, so it is of interest to those who like local history!"

A reader from Florence read *Crocodile on the Sandbank* by Elizabeth Peters: "This is the first in the Amelia Peabody Murder Mystery series set in Egypt. The author had a PhD in Egyptology. This book is a delightful mystery following Amelia Peabody in Egypt in the latter 19th century. I chose this book as we are planning our first trip to Egypt this year."

A reader from Hamilton read *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman: "From sad and lonely to a life worth living-great, uplifting theme."

A reader from Amherst read *If You Could Be Mine* by Sarah Farizan: "Well done, but grim. Set in Tehran, Iran. Sahir, a young lesbian, comes to understand the impossibility of her love affair with her best friend Nasrin in a country where homosexuality is a capital crime."

A reader from Franklin read *Anxious People* by Frederik Backman: "This book challenged my biases as characters revealed were different than the initial assumptions I made about them."

A reader from Hopedale read *The Survivors* by Jane Harper: "This author is one of my favorites and is set on the island of Tasmania where I have never been. The main character is Kieran who revisits his home town after many years and bad memories surface as well as new problems arise. I like the way Jane Harper writes all her books; a mystery surrounded by the lives of many people. I liked this book so much that I read it twice."

A reader from Sutton read *In a sunburned country* by Bill Bryson: "Another funny travel memoir by Bill Bryson! Definitely made me want to visit Australia!"

A reader from Northampton read *The Bangalore Detectives Club* by Harini Nagendra: "A detective novel set in 1920s Bangalore, India may not be what the Reading Challenge crew expected for June's "book set in a country you've never visited", but this book is a total gem. The descriptions of the city - whether of

crowded dirt back alleys or the lush gardens and homes of the monied are vivid - brought to life by the author who is a professor of ecology and sustainability in Bangalore. Female characters of differing classes and age help the reader understand the societal constraints in 1920s India. And, all of that in a beautifully written, engaging detective novel with a hint of romance PLUS - a few of the author's favorite recipes!"

A reader from East Falmouth read *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* by Lisa See: "Taking place in 19th Century China, this book described the process of foot binding and other traditions practiced at the time. The connection between human beings and the influence of past experience on how one relates to the world is universal and timeless."

A reader from Amherst read *The Three Body Problem* by Cixin Liu: "Very interesting concept and broad world building. Excited to see where this could go in the sequels and I get to use a sequel as my 'book in translation' for August."

A reader from Amherst read *Greek to Me; Adventures of the Comma Queen* by Mary Norris: "A delight. Got us very excited for an upcoming trip to Greece."

A reader from West Barnstable read *Midnight's Children* by Salman Rushdie: "I was captivated by this mystical epic tale of a life intertwined with the 20th century history of India. It made me more eager to visit the country."

A reader from Belchertown read *The Winners* by Frederik Backman: "Absolutely loved the final book in the Beartown Trilogy about a small forest town in Sweden. About how we are all connected in so many different ways."

A reader from Boston read *How We Disappeared* by Jing-Jing Lee: "Gave extremely loud and incredibly close vibes. Sad but so important."

A reader from Thorndike read *Love & Gelato* by Jenna Evans Welch: "A delightful, quick, and adorable YA romance set in Italy!"

A reader from Hanson read *Born Under a Million Shadows* by Andrea Busfield: "Narrated by a young boy, the complex world of Afghanistan is revealed through everyday events of family life, love and friendship. The narrator shed light on the resiliency of the Afghanistan people amongst challenging times."

A reader from Northampton read *Ghost Wall* by Sarah Moss: "Very quick, compelling, and atmospheric. Would recommend to fans of *The Secret History* by Donna Tartt or the Showtime TV show *Yellowjackets*."

A reader from Stoneham read *An Elderly Lady is Up To No Good* by Helene Tursten: "Good book of short stories set in Sweden. Crime Fiction."

A reader from Stoneham read *Exiles* by Jane Harper: "Good mystery. I like all of Jane Harper's books."

A reader from Stoneham read *The River at the Center of the World: A Journey Up the Yangtze and Back in Chinese Time* by Simon Winchester: "About a trip the author took up the Yangtze in the mid 1990's. Interesting but it seems like a lot has changed in China since then."

A reader from Oakham read *Shubeik Lubeik* by Deena Mohamed: "A graphic novel, set in contemporary Egypt, with a plot that revolves around the ancient beliefs in wishes--which are regulated by the

government, and traded on the black market. Three stories intertwine, of characters who must make complicated choices about using wishes. Originally written in Arabic, the English translation reads right to left!”

A reader from Shelburne Falls read *Escape from Amsterdam* by Barrie Sherwood: “Musings on Japan for tourists, plus prostitutes, money, and escapes from mob bosses.”

A reader from Hopkinton read *Perfect Couple* by Elin Hilderbrand: “Never been to Nantucket. Great fun read for the beginning of Summer”

A reader from Hopkinton read *The Reading List* by Sara Nisha Adams: “Through the magic of books lives can be changed.”

A reader from Irvine CA read *A Week in Winter* by Maeve Binchy: “Set in Ireland, this book is a delightful collection of short stories masquerading as a novel. It is set in a guest house on the wild west coast.”

A reader from Northfield read *Maureen* by Rachel Joyce: “This short novel set in England is the final book of a series but works as a standalone also. Sadness and grief are central to the main character but there is kindness and humor also, as Maureen travels toward understanding and a sense of joy again. The allusions to the first 2 books in the Harold Fry series make me want to read those novels too.”

A reader from WAKEFIELD read *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee: “Interesting history of the Japanese and Korean people; great characters.”

A reader from Springfield read *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman: “I got quite a few laughs from reading!”

A reader from Weymouth read *Normal People* by Sally Rooney: “This month’s challenge gave me the push to read a book that has been on my ‘want to read’ list for a while. I wish I had chosen something that was a little more ‘about’ the place where it was set, because although this takes place in Ireland, it could have taken place anywhere. But that is part of its appeal, I think—that Rooney’s characters have traits that are universal, and serve to validate a lot of what we see in ourselves as imperfections, but really just make us ‘normal people.’”

A reader from Worcester read *One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez: “I sadly did not finish this book! I was plodding along bit by bit at the end of the day, exhausted from raising three young children, and eventually decided now is not the time for me to this book.”

A reader from Plymouth read *Open Water* by Caleb Azumah Nelson: “Such a beautiful book! I was worried it might be too short but wow it left me breathless. It felt like I was reading a heartbreaking poem about an intimate love story between two artists in the UK.”

A reader from Plainville read *The Vacationers* by Emma Straub: “This book is set on the Spanish island of Mallorca, which sounds absolutely beautiful. It was a light, easy read- perfect for kicking off summer!”

A reader from Rockland read *The Curse of the Pharaohs* by Elizabeth Peters: “The allure of Egypt and the excavating of the tombs of the Pharaohs is enhanced by protagonist Amelia Peabody and her archeologist husband, as they uncover the murderer in their midst with precision and humor.”

A reader from Salem read *The Song of Achilles* by Madeline Miller: "My first thought upon finishing the first chapters was, "wow, this reads just like a song." Hence, the title now made perfect sense. The novel is a beautifully woven tapestry of rhythmic storytelling, in which there is no end or beginning, but simply the continuing melody that spins a tale of love, growth, and the hero's journey."

A reader from Hanover read *Kaikeyi* by Vaishnavi Patel: "I haven't been to India but I have read this story growing up! Great interpretation of the mythology. Cool to see the story from a different point of view, especially from a strong female character."

A reader from Boston read *The Art of Inheriting Secrets* by Barbara O'Neal: "An interesting story about family secrets and how they don't stay secret forever."

A reader from Marblehead read *The Widows of Malabar Hill* by Sujata Massey: "The book's story overall was good and engaging. The ending was odd as it seemed to suddenly change the storyline from an interesting tale about murder into a message about women's equality."

A reader from Lowell read *Diary of a Tuscan Bookshop* by Alba Donati: "I loved this book in a way I rarely love memoirs, and visiting the Library Sopra la Penna."

A reader from Basking Ridge read *Carry On: Reflections for a new generation* by John Lewis: "I thought it was inspiring."

A reader from Basking Ridge read *When We Fell Apart* by Soon Wiley: "Started off great but lost interest in the back half. Didn't really care about the outcome on way or another."

A reader from Dracut read *One Italian Summer* by Rebecca Serle: "A little 'out there' but still an enjoyable, easy read."

A reader from Reading read *The True Story of Hansel and Gretel* by Louise Murphy: "Beautifully written but gut wrenching. A retelling of the classic fairytale set in Poland during the Holocaust."

A reader from Conroe read *Colour Scheme* by Ngaio Marsh: "I was a little disappointed as the synopsis led me to believe it was about a different topic."

A reader from Erving read *Tiger Skin Rug* by Joan Haig: "Beautiful and creative story. The kids take an adventure that I'm sure they didn't expect would make them grow up in so many ways. They learn responsibility, they learn love, they learn betrayal, and most of all, they learn the true meaning of family!"

A reader from Dracut read *I am Malala* by Christina Lamb and Malala Yousafzai: "This book was set in Pakistan during a time of radical views. The courage of this young woman to obtain an education is phenomenal. A lesson in perseverance and resiliency."

A reader from Lee read *Tokyo, Dreaming* by Emiko Jean: "It's like *What a Girl Wants* but in Japan. It was cute but I could have done without the love triangle."

A reader from Wilmington read *Always Remember Me* by Marisabina Russo: "I like that she had two lives in one life. One was about the bad times before World War II and the other was about the happier times after when she came to America."

A reader from Pittsfield read *The Silkworm* by Robert Galbraith: "This is book 2 of a series set in London. It was very different from the first book. The crime in this novel was difficult to read, it was must more horrific and grotesque - still a gripping book nonetheless."

A reader from Northampton read *Banyan Moon* by Thao Thai: "I was surprised how gothic this book turned out to be. Present haunted by the past. A decaying old house and its pull to this specific location. Family secrets and drama. Some slightly supernatural experiences."

A reader from Braintree read *The Love and Lies of Rokhsana Ali* by Sabina Khan: "This book is an emotional and rewarding read about the challenges of a Bangladeshi Muslim LGBT+ girl and what she goes through when her family finds out her identity."

A reader from Attleboro read *The Last Detective* by Peter Lovesey: "It was entertaining enough, but not enough to cause me to read another Lovesey mystery with Peter Diamond."

A reader from Melrose read *Afterlives* by Abdulrazak Gurnah: "I learned more in this book than in the nonfiction read for May. The pace was too slow for me until the final 40 pages so off give the book 7 out of 10."

A reader from Somerville read *One Hundred Saturdays* by Michael Frank: "Incredible and devastating story about one woman's survival of concentration camps during the Holocaust. Stella Levi is from the small island of Rhodes and recalls her experiences to a journalist at the age of 99. I knew nothing about the Sephardic Italian Jewish residents of Rhodes who lived behind a walled neighborhood called the Juderia. Truly fascinating and heartbreaking. Stella's story will stay will me for a long time."

A reader from Fall River read *Exit West* by Mohsin Hamid: "This powerful book took me to what is possibly Pakistan, but also Greece, England and California, all places that I have never been to!"

A reader from Hopkinton read *Radiance of Tomorrow* by Ishmael Beah: "The book is set in Sierra Leone in the years after the Civil War has just ended. It shows both hope and resilience of people in the face of terrible circumstances - but also how small injustices and corruption can break spirits and destroy the fabric of society worse than the atrocities and violence of open war. Despite the hope and ability to find joy in small things the book tries to celebrate, I found it rather depressing."

A reader from Northampton read *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini: "Hosseini illustrates the struggles of regime changes and how fast ones life can change."

A reader from Seekonk read *The Last Bookaneer* by Matthew Pearl: "The book started in London, but mostly was about Samoa and the life Robert Louis Stevenson had there. It was fascinating to learn about the Samoan ways of life."

A reader from Sunderland read *A Year in Provence* by Peter Mayle: "This was a fun and relaxing book with great descriptions of the food, people and scenery of the region. It sure made me want to be there, visiting the author's vineyards and eating at the local cafes."

A reader from Worcester read *The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd: "Sue Monk Kid wrote a fascinating fictional story about a women Ana who married Jesus. Enjoyed learning about Palestine and Egypt in the time of Jesus."

A reader from Salem read *A Quiet American* by Graham Greene: "A Quiet American is part murder mystery, part expat novel, and part love triangle. The book is set in Vietnam and during the war. The book is narrated by an elderly divorced journalist, Fowler. He falls for a local girl, Phuong. He makes a friend, Pyle, overseas who also falls for the same young girl. The main character is depicted as somewhat selfish while his friend is depicted as genuine and naive. The book opens with the murder of the young friend who is actually a CIA agent. I really enjoyed reading this book, it was recommended by "Better Than Food" book reviews, a YouTube channel I like. It is a great novel. It was a great book to read at this time as its central messages revolve around politics and war."

A reader from Attleboro read *Spare* by Prince Harry: "After reading this book, I completely understand Harry needing space and safety away from the life he was lived in. This book was filled with emotions and really just makes the reader want to give hugs to Harry and Meghan."

A reader from Hadley (moved from Salem) read *Lady Tan's Circle of Women* by Lisa See: "Lisa See is one of my favorite authors and once again, she does not disappoint. Compelling characters, rich history, beautiful and masterful storytelling. I was transported to 1400s China and the Ming dynasty, and could feel the struggles and injustices faced by the women depicted in the core of my being. Lady Tan is a hero. Highly recommend."

A reader from West Yarmouth read *Old Stories* by Will Thomas: "I just discovered this author. His books are Victorian era mysteries set in London. I am so glad to have a list of books by an author I enjoy to explore."

A reader from Bourne read *Lady Tan's Circle of Women* by Lisa See: "This book was excellent. I traveled back in time to the 15th century in ancient China where Tan Yunxian becomes a doctor for women. This book not only spins an interesting tale that is based on a true character, but also ties in the bond that women have had through the ages through their common experiences. This book just came out this month and I highly recommend it."

A reader from Fitchburg read *The Enchanted Hacienda* by J.C. Cervantes: "This book was a warm and funny book about family and magic."

A reader from West Bridgewater read *River Sing Me Home* by Eleanor Shearer: "Set in Barbados and Trinidad this story of a woman's love and determination to find her children who had been stolen from her and sold to other plantations is one of hope, and tragedy, and family. Well written and moving."

A reader from Norwell read *The Night Ship* by Jess Kidd: "Kidd always weaves magical tales that bring the fantastical to the everyday."

A reader from Greenfield read *A short history of tractors in Ukrainian* by Marina Lewycka: "This is a funny, poignant novel about a family dealing with an aging father."

A reader from Wilbraham read *Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity* by Katherine Boo: "An interesting work of non-fiction focusing on several families living in the slums of Mumbai from 2007-2011. The devastating living and working conditions of these families were simply heartbreaking."

A reader from Melrose read *The Idiot* by Elif Batuman: "I read this novel for my book club. The later part of it (and the dullest section of the book) is set in Hungary, where I have never been. Although the romance is kind of sweet, and some of the dialogue is quite funny, the book meanders and has no plot."

A reader from Abington read *Mysteries* by Knut Hamsun: "Based in Norway in late 1800's. Loving it so far (80% done) but it somewhat defies description. I thought I was buying a mystery novel but it turns out to be a story about a young man's mental collapse. Random interactions with strangers in a small town, and random stories he tells that may or may not be real. Oddly compelling and readable despite the seeming lack of cohesive thread in his thinking as much is just stream of consciousness of a destabilizing man."

A reader from Sandwich read *Anxious People* by Fredrik Blackman: "Good, not great"

A reader from Florence read *The Ink Black Heart* by Robert Galbraith: "Way too long! I felt that it was written with a specific target group in mind even more so than others in the series."

A reader from Amherst read *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles: "A wonderful trip through the fictional life of Count Rostov, and all the characters he meets along the way, in a very real Russia. Enchanting storytelling and character development."

A reader from Tewksbury read *A Song of Comfortable Chairs* by Alexander McCall Smith: "Enjoyable story - nice read about life and interaction between people."

A reader from Newton read *Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetys: "Stunning, heart wrenching, yet beautiful story of human resilience, family bonds, and hope during a bleak and cruel war."

A reader from Marblehead read *Yellow Rain* by Mai Der Vang: "A brilliant and heart-breaking hybrid account of the Hmong refugees at the end of the Vietnam War. A lyric historical account!"

A reader from Westborough read *Epiphany: The. Golding* by Sonya Danna Terry: "It took about 50 pages for me to start to understand what was going on. After that, I was very intrigued and interested. Very glad I have read it, will definitely read the second and third of the series. The book takes place in Australia and prehistoric Norway."

A reader from Methuen read *The Irishman's Daughter* by V.S. Alexander: "The writing was so beautiful and lyrical. It was so sad to read about what people went through during the potato famine, how they struggled to survive."

A reader from Enfield read *Love & Olives* by Jenna Evans Welch: "In this book the main character, Olive, goes to Santorini Greece to help her dad find the lost city of Atlantis. I've never been to Greece but the author makes it sound beautiful!"

A reader from Scituate read *The covenant of water* by Abraham verghese: "A story of parents and their children, not to be missed. Lyrically beautiful and patiently crafted. A story with twists and turns about generations of a family in India."

A reader from Gill read *Dracula* by Bram Stoker: "I have traveled neither to Romania nor England. This book has had such cultural influence that it was interesting to find, reading it for the first time, which elements I was already familiar with and which were unexpected."

A reader from Wakefield read *The Boy Between Worlds* by Annejet Van Der Zijl: "This book was an incredibly engrossing biography of some very important "no name" individuals who experienced adversity and challenges but still contributed much to history and their fellow man. Very happy to have found this book!"

A reader from Whately read *The Bangalore Detectives Club* by Harini Nagendra: "I enjoyed this book. There was not as much history as I anticipated but there was enough for me to get a sense of life in Bangalore in the 1920's. I would read another book in this series."

A reader from Wrentham read *The Island of Missing Trees* by Elif Shafak: "Cyprus like other Mediterranean islands has a history of immigration, colonization, nationalist and sectarian violence and emigration. This book poignantly depicts that history in the story of one family and it's relationship to their island's natural environment."

A reader from East Taunton read *Waiting for an Ordinary Day* by Farnaz Fassihi: "This was a really sad book but an important read for every thoughtful American."

A reader from Amherst read *Gates of Fire* by Stephen Pressfield: "This was a very long book about a battle in Ancient Greece. I am planning a trip to Greece, so I thought this would be interesting and people online had rated it so highly -- 4.4 on Goodreads! But I never really got into this one; it just wasn't for me."

A reader from Hampden read *When All Is Said* by Anne Griffin: "I thought this book set in Ireland was pretty good. It was about a man who is reminiscing about his life."

A reader from Reading read *1964 The Greatest Year in the History of Japan* by Roy Tomizawa: "Easy to read, tons of history, and interesting Olympic stories. Love the photos included, too!"

A reader from Quincy read *If You Could Be Mine* by Sara Farizan: "I really loved this story! It was set in Iran and included some basic Arabic words, which I appreciated being woven into such a beautiful novel."

A reader from Hatfield read *Fruit of the Drunken Tree* by Ingrid Rojas Contreras: "It was interesting, but I had trouble getting into it."

A reader from Attleboro read *Born A Crime* by Trevor Noah: "It's hard to believe that Trevor Noah became a comedian, among other things, given the horrific conditions of his entire life in South Africa living under apartheid."

A reader from middleboro read *iceland* by jenna gottieb: "Great descriptions of towns and attractions. helpful detailed maps, the pictures are great I want to go now just to see some waterfalls. If you want to travel to iceland read this book first!"

A reader from Plymouth read *Spare* by Prince Harry: "Very slow reading."

A reader from Wilmington read *Our Woman in Moscow* by Beatriz Williams: "Excellent book that took place in several locations around the world. The climax happened in Russia, but a lot of the building of the story took place in Italy, with even a little time in the US. Fabulous fictional story with a setting very much in the cold war."



A reader from Wilmington read *Beautiful World, Where are You* by Sally Rooney: "This was a fun read and I love Sally Rooney's writing style! I would love to go to Ireland someday."

A reader from Hanson read *The Henna Artist* by Alka Joshi: "This was a lovely story that was so colorful. I can't wait to try some of the recipes. I might read the rest of the trilogy."

A reader from Dennis Port read *The Whiz Mob and the Grenadine Kid* by Colin Meloy: "The story of Charlie, the son of an American diplomat, in Paris - a boy who doesn't fit in to the diplomat's son role who finds himself entranced with an international community of professional grifter children."

A reader from ATTLEBORO read *As Long As the Lemon Trees Grow* by Zoulfa Katouh: "This book is not one you can put down indifferently. I thank the author for sharing Syria with us and for masterfully painting a portrait of authenticity in love; five stars."

A reader from Stanford read *Burial Rites* by Hannah Kent: "The novel is based on a true story. It is about the last woman executed in Iceland in 1828. While it was interesting, it was difficult to keep track of the characters and places since many of the names are in Danish and Icelandic."

A reader from Lynnfield read *River Sing Me Home* by Eleanor Shearer: "Set in Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago this was a beautiful story of hope and resilience when living in a world design to keep you down. I really liked the book but wish there was more character development."

A reader from Palm read *Animal Life* by Audur Ava Olafsdottir: "An Icelandic woman from a long line of midwives learns about her late great aunt through a trove of papers."

A reader from Dracut read *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hossein: "Riveting, horrifying, thoughtful, and sad. If even 1/10th of what was written is true, and tying it in with what's happening today in Afghanistan with the Taliban re-takeover, I can't even imagine the strife, fortitude, fear, and resilience of the Afghani people."

A reader from Beverly read *An Ordinary Wonder* by Buki Papillon: "An incredible look at the life of a young trans woman growing up in Nigeria. I highly recommend to ANYONE."

A reader from Plainville read *The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny, and Murder* by David Grann: "This was a great book to learn about life at sea, shipwreck, and survival. I have not visited any of the countries this book is based on including Chile, Brazil, and England. I hope to travel to some of these locations one day!"

A reader from Middleboro read *Night Music* by JoJo Moyes: "I thought this book had a lot going on and never really "completed" any of the relationships that were started in the book. I feel the book ended abruptly. I'm also not sure why the title is Night Music??"

A reader from Nantucket read *RickSteves Scotland* by Rick Steves: "This is my sixth travel guide read this year, as we travel to Ireland and Scotland later this month. My favorite was Back Roads Ireland by DK press/Eyewitness Travel."

A reader from Amherst read *Turn Right at Machu Picchu* by Mark Adams: "I liked the book which had some funny parts. It made me want to learn more about Peru and visit one day."

A reader from Amherst read *Turn Right at Machu Pichu: Rediscovering the Lost City One Step at a Time* by Mark Adams: "I have never been to Peru. This book made me want to go. It was humorous and informative at the same time."

A reader from Rochester read *In the time of the butterflies* by Alvarez: "A good look at the culture and politics of the Dominican republic."

A reader from Scituate read *The Rescue Artist: A True Story of Art, Thieves* by Edward Dolnick: "This non-fiction book starts in 1994 in Oslo, Norway, a country which I have never visited, when two thieves break into the National Gallery, and steal the painting, *The Scream*. Reading this book I have learned unfortunately not much about Norway but a great deal about the world of art thefts and the investigative process of recovering works of art as much of the book recounts other art thefts and recoveries."

A reader from Hudson read *The Daughters of Madurai* by Rajasree Variyar: "This heart wrenching, multigenerational story takes place in India where female infanticide is a common practice among the poor. The bond between mothers and daughters is a moving force in this novel. A great read!!!"

A reader from Amesbury read *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris: "I thought it was very interesting to hear about someone's first hand experience in a concentration camp and had no idea that it was a true story until the end."

A reader from Salem read *The Third Pole* by Mark Synnot: "This was a fascinating parallel story of the author attempting to summit Everest, and the story of a 1924 expedition to summit Everest. I really enjoyed hearing the history of Everest, as well as the way the current "climbing economy" works."

A reader from Lowell read *The Magician's Daughter* by H.G. Parry: "Fun fantasy! Whimsical but also mysterious at times. Explores coming of age in a broken world with an unlikely hero - very well done by HG Parry!"

A reader from Northfield read *The Light in Hidden Places* by Sharon Cameron: "This was a difficult read because there were so many sad situations. It is set during WWII in Poland and is the story of a young girl and her sister who hide Jews in their attic. They struggled with constant fear and often ran out of food & water. Amazing how they all survived."

A reader from Hampden read *Eat, Pray, Love* by Elizabeth Gilbert: "I loved it!"

A reader from Rochester read *Murder in an Irish Village* by Carlene O'Connor: "Not much of a plot for the murder mystery, but the feel a small Irish village life came across very well, and the characters seemed quite real."

A reader from Rochester read *Outside* by Ragnar Jonasson: "Not a bad suspense novel with twists, but I was disappointed that it didn't tell me as much about Iceland as I had hoped."

A reader from East Sandwich read *Our Man in Havana* by Graham Greene: "Greene-land is a magical country. You just can't go wrong visiting it!!!"

A reader from Melrose read *Here Comes the Sun* by Nicole Dennis-Benn: "Beautifully written, emotionally challenging. Really gives a sense of the legacy of Jamaican colonialization and aggressive commercial/tourist development in the 1990's, highlighting especially the lives of women. Unforgettable

and powerful portraits of people and culture. Unflinching exploration of the many ways sexuality is expressed and used - universal themes as well as specific to this setting.”

A reader from Amherst read *She Who Became The Sun* by Shelley Parker-Chan: “Incredible book - fate, survival, instincts, gender, societal values and expectations.”

A reader from Beverly read *The Girl from the Channel Islands* by Jenny Lecoat: “Attended a Zoom program about the Channel Islands. I had no idea where they even were. The speaker recommended several books and I chose this one. It was a fictional account of the German occupation of those islands - the only part of Britain to be occupied during the war. Hedy, a young Jewish girl from Austria had fled the Nazis and ended up on The Channel Islands only to have those islands occupied by the Nazis. The resilience and ingenuity that she and the other characters expressed to help them survive was nothing short of miraculous.”

A reader from Belchertown read *The Fountains of Silence* by Ruta Sepetys: “Outstanding. An amazing story brilliantly written. The fictional story is so well balanced with the historical aspects.”

A reader from Plymouth read *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver: “My first time reading a book by Barbara Kingsolver. She completely immerses the reader in the world of this missionary family in the Belgian Congo.”

A reader from Swampscott read *The Last Animal* by Ramona Ausubel: “This was a fantastic book about what could potentially happen if we genetically engineer animals who have been extinct.”

A reader from Sandwich read *Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman: “This was my first Fredrik Backman book, and what a delightful read it was. The style took a bit of getting used to, but I ended up loving this honest, refreshing and heartwarming story of humanity.”

A reader from Fitchburg read *Ink blood sister scribe* by Emma Torzs: “I enjoyed this. I liked that it was something different and was set in many different places.”

A reader from Boston read *The 86th Village* by Sena Desai Gopal: “Learned a lot about India and water issues there.”

A reader from Weymouth read *Bronze Drum* by Phong Nguyen: “Based on historical people and set in ancient Vietnam, 2 sisters raise an army of women to fight and protect their culture and way of life.”

A reader from East Taunton read *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman: “Backman is an incredible author and I adored Ove.”

A reader from Plymouth read *A long way gone* by Ishmael Beah: “A heart breaking account of the reality of war and it's devastation.”

A reader from Woods Hole read *The Historians* by Cecilia Ekbäck: “Excellent portrayal of unnoticed racism in a country that seems socially well balanced to the outsider.”

A reader from Palmer read *Skin of the sea* by Natasha Bowen: “I enjoyed the exposure to different cultures, religion, and the experience of the people who were stolen from their homeland, all under the guise of mermaids.”

A reader from Hampden read *Together Tea* by Elinor Lipman: "This was a very interesting book that described life in Iran and New York City before 1978 and after 1996."

A reader from Wakefield read *Us Against You* by Fredrik Backman: "I love his books and his flawed/real characters. The only thing is I often have to read or listen to them more than once because there are so many characters. The story includes a perfect balance of humor, drama, hurting and helping."

A reader from Peabody read *Three Sisters* by Heather Morris: "It is so hard to read about the Nazi concentration camps and all of the horrors that occurred during this time. I like Morris as a writer based on my reading of her previous books so I thought I would give this one a chance. The Three Sisters really is compelling and allowed me to see hope, love, and endurance. It is well written and while the topic is gruesome it was well worth the read."

A reader from danvers read *The Appeal* by Janice Hallett: "the story takes place in the UK and is told through emails and text messages. These conversations are being reviewed to help turn over a conviction of murder. the story centers on seemingly illegal practices in raising money for cancer patients, sexual assault in Africa, and relationships between co-workers. The main group of people know each other through a community play company. It was an interesting read due to the way the information was presented to the reader."

A reader from Wellesley read *The Exiles* by Jane Harper: "Loved it...stayed up all night reading it!"

A reader from Weymouth read *300 Days of Sun* by Deborah Lawrenson: "The author gave lots of detail of the parts of Portugal where the story takes place and truly made me feel that I was there. Good plot line and an engaging mystery."

A reader from Wrentham read *The Best Place on Earth* by Ayelet Tsabari: "Excellent short stories. As each story finished, I wanted to know more about the characters."

A reader from Elkins read *All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Maria Remarque: "A powerful account of the first World War. It is movingly humane amid the bitter cynicism and darkness of its setting."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *City of Dark Magic* by Magnus Flyte: "The book is set in Prague, where an American music student is cataloguing original copies of music composed by Beethoven. This particular castle has a range of supernatural figures that play roles in this entertaining and somewhat quirky plot."

A reader from Essex read *Apples Never Fall* by Liane Moriarty: "Set in Australia. Entertaining but not one of her best."

A reader from Westminster read *Eternal* by Lisa Scottoline: "Beautifully written book about Rome, Italy giving a true taste of life in Rome just before WWII and its aftermath. A love story beyond compare, one of the best books I have read in a long time."

A reader from Fitchburg read *Cold Enough For Snow* by Jessica Au: "Under 100 pages in length, Cold Enough For Snow chronicles a mother-daughter trip to Tokyo. It reads almost as if you have stumbled upon someone's private journal, who wrote with such descriptive and thought provoking lines."

A reader from Florence read *The Island of Missing Trees* by Elif Shafak: "This novel that takes place in England and Cypress and speaks at times in the voice of a fig tree, one of the main characters. Learned

some about trees and Greek and Turkish Cypriots and was impressed by the writing and imagination of the author as well as her care for the natural world and all creatures living within it.”

A reader from melrose read *Walking with Sam* by Andrew McCarthy: “Loved the book. Learned so much about The terrain of Spain along the Camino de Santiago. Also enjoyed the author's perspective on the benefits of travel. I was envious of the time McCarthy was able to spend with his son. It reminded me of a cross country trip I took with my children when they were in elementary school. Great writing!”

A reader from Salem read *Homecoming* by Kate Morton: “I’ve loved each Kate Morton book I’ve read, and this one did not disappoint! Some day I hope to get to Australia!!”

A reader from Sandwich read *The covenant of water* by Abraham vergise: “Awesome! Best of the year.”

A reader from Enfield read *Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring* by J. R. R. Tolkien: “A bit of a cheat but I mean, technically I haven't visited Middle Earth, right? And if you consider it as an allegory for the U.K., it totally counts! In any case, LOTR is such a compelling read and a wonderful story with just the best characters. I'm beyond delighted to have taken the time to actually read it.”

A reader from Beverly read *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles: “An excellent read spanning decades; well written, you just want to spend more time with these characters. A book that feels well lived-in.”

A reader from Harwich read *The English Patient* by Michael Ondaatje: “I have not been to Egypt or the deserts of North Africa so this book fit your monthly topic very well. Many people saw the movie made from this book, but reading the original story brings a different dimension to the story. Ondaatje’s most recent novel, Warlight, got somewhat lost during the covid period, but it shows his increasing mastery over the English language, in my opinion..”

A reader from Springfield read *Gods of jade and stone* by Silvia moreno-garcia: “I loved this book. The vivid imagery and heartfelt story that has touches of horror and humanity to it.”

A reader from Hudson read *Girl* by Edna O'Brien: “GIRL is set in Nigeria and is about a young girl kidnapped by the terrorist group Boko Haram. The book's focus is on the girl and her ability to survive in a series of very challenging situations, including making her way through a jungle with her infant child. Though less about the land and people of Nigeria, this story could not have happened elsewhere.”

A reader from Dracut read *One Italian Summer* by Rebecca Serle: “The perfect summer read. So much imagery, would be beautiful as a movie!”

A reader from Leverett read *Small Things Like These* by Claire Keegan: “Although the book is very short, I quickly felt immersed in the time and place and started caring about the characters right away.”

A reader from Melrose read *Sasaki and Miyano* by Shou Harusono: “I can’t get enough of this manga. If you like Heartstopper by Alice Oseman, you’ll love Sasaki and Miyano.”

A reader from Monson read *The Librarian Spy* by Madeline Martin: “The book centers around two women--Ava working in Portugal and Helene/Elaine working in Lyon. Both are involved in WWII Resistance activities and believe in the power of the word. Of the two locations, I prefer Portugal, neutral in WWII and full of history unknown previously to me--its earthquake, lovely palaces, medieval center, and yummy food.”

A reader from SCITUATE read *Next Year in Havana* by Chanel Cleeton: "Cuba, although only 90 miles from FL, is worlds apart from America's freedom and way of life. The book's timeframe braids from 1959 to 2017 through multi generations and political eras. Treat yourself to armchair travel and appreciation of the USA."

A reader from Baldwinville read *Haven* by Emma Donoghue: "I am fascinated by stories of medieval Christianity and its connections to nature and the legends that preceded it. This book wove those threads into a suspenseful tale of isolation and companionship."

A reader from Haverhill read *The Empress of Salt and Fortune* by Nghi Vo: "A bit of fantasy and mysticism. A winding narrative slowly unfolding."

A reader from AUBURN read *The Piano Maker* by Kurt Palka: "I loved this book. The prose is crackling and the images are genuine. The reader can feel the tension of Helene's dark, long kept secret coming to light - and the horrifying weather and abject horror of what she endured lingers. I love that the protagonist is a strong woman in the 1930's. She's the piano maker - not a tuner - a maker - who learned the trade and skills from her mother."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Prussian Blue* by Philip Kerr: "A great adventure, detective story - makes me want to travel!"

A reader from Williamsburg read *You're Invited* by Amanda Jayatissa: "A tale that's equal parts troubling and compelling about family secrets that come to ahead an ill-fated wedding. Includes are undercurrent of classism and its impact on women."

A reader from Middleboro read *The Lost Notebook* by Louise Douglas: "I liked the characters but she never quite completed the story. I assume there will be a sequel because so many things were left undone."

A reader from Middleboro read *The Lost Notebook* by Louise Douglas: "I didn't think it was a great book- didn't really end with all questions answered."

A reader from Burlington read *The Women in Black* by Madeline St. John: "A fun book about women who work in an Australian department store. I enjoyed how the stories were separate but occasionally intertwined."

A reader from Mt. Washington read *Lady Tan's Circle of Women* by Lisa See: "Beautifully told story of a woman doctor in 1500s China."

A reader from Reading read *Nothing to Envy* by Barbara Demick: "This was an extremely interesting book with characters that were engaging."

A reader from Reading read *Nothing to Envy* by Barbara Demick: "This was a very interesting book with engaging characters."

A reader from Marblehead read *Little Bee* by Chris cleave: "Haunting book, partially set in Africa. Would recommend this book."

A reader from Sutton read *Christmas at the Island Hotel* by Jenny Colgan: "Entertaining and a different area of the world."

A reader from Rochester read *Exiles* by Jane Harper: "I Enjoyed the book set in South Australia wine country. It was a mystery."

A reader from Lynnfield read *The House of Silk* by Anthony Horowitz: "An enjoyable and fast read. I have read most of the Sherlock Holmes stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and found this book to be true to his form and style. If you haven't read Sherlock Holmes before I still think you will enjoy the mystery and characters."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Exiles* by Jane Harper: "Set in Australia's wine country. this is the third (and final) entry in Jane Harper's Aaron Falk mystery series."

A reader from New Bedford read *Saudade* by Miriam Winthrop: "I enjoyed the description of the island of Pico in the Azores. I would love to visit the Azores someday. The time travel element & shifting back & forth in the main character's 21st century life seemed to be a lot."

A reader from Weymouth read *Siciliana* by Carlo Treviso: "I really liked the Sicilian characters, but it was tough reading, because of the violence and cruelty between the oppressed and the oppressors during the island's French occupation in the 13th century. It is about a time in history that is not particularly well known. Interesting, glad I read it."

A reader from East Falmouth read *Paris in Love* by Eloise James: "Enjoyed the stream of information about her year in Paris with her family. It was like a conversation with a friend."

A reader from Salem read *Sweet Bean Paste* by Durian Sakegawa: "It is a very sweet and patient book. It describes the importance of community and our roles in that community. It addresses the horrible leprosy epidemic in Japan and how public opinion prevented the survivors from returning to the community they dearly miss."

A reader from Belchertown read *My Brilliant Friend* by Elena Ferrante: "I found this book hard to follow although as I progressed it became easier. Maybe the culture was unfamiliar to me. I am not sure I will read the rest of the books in the series."

A reader from East Sandwich read *The Bride Test* by Helen Hoang: "A sweet love story, but not as good as *The Kiss Quotient* in my opinion."

A reader from Boston/ Yarmouth read *The World Played Chess* by Robert Dugoni: "This is the fictionalized but very realistic memoir of you young man who was sent to fight in the Vietnam war. A very emotional and engaging story."

A reader from Reading read *Tokyo Ever After* by Emoji Jean: "It was a super sweet adaption of princess diaries that also tackled the cultural differences between growing up Asian in America and Japan."

A reader from Marriottsville read *Homecoming* by Kate Morton: "A lovely story that takes place in Australia. Kate Morton is one of my favorite authors and she writes so that her characters seem real and her stories are spell binding and satisfying. Really hard to put down until the surprise end."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *The case of the deadly butter chicken* by Tarquin Hall: "Enjoyable, entertaining whodunit. Vish Puri and his Mummyji stole the show!"

A reader from Lynnfield read *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee: "Interesting book that can be a bit slow at times. Gets more interesting towards the middle."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *El jardín del samurai* by Tsukiyama, Gail: "I loved this book! Japan and China together I chose it because I haven't been in Japan yet."

A reader from Forestdale read *Dracula* by Bram Stoker: "The best immortal fictional monster."

A reader from WORCESTER read *KELEGEEN* by EILEEN O'FINLAN: "THIS BOOK WAS SET IN IRELAND DURING THE POTATO FAMINE. WHILE THE STORY WAS HEARTBREAKING THE INNER STRENGTH OF SO MANY OF THE CHARACTERS AND THEIR WILL TO SURVIVE IN SUCH DIRE CIRCUMSTANCES WAS INSPIRATIONAL. HAVING ALREADY READ THE SEQUEL, ERIN'S CHILDREN, I WAS HAPPY TO READ THE PREQUEL. BOTH HISTORICAL NOVELS BY EILEEN O'FINLAN WERE WELL WRITTEN AND GOOD READS."

A reader from Worcester read *The Yid* by Paul Goldberg: "A completely different (and fictionalized) perspective on the death of Josef Stalin through the lens of Shakespeare's King Lear. Would highly recommend this book to those interested in the Bard and/or Jewish history in the Soviet Union."

A reader from YARMOUTH PORT read *Island of missing trees* by Elif Shafak: "A very powerful book which tells a very heartbreaking love story and highlighted the conflict in Cyprus."

A reader from Sandwich read *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini: "An incredible but devastating story that gives a visually emotional portrayal of the horrors Afghanistan has endured since the 1970s."

A reader from Three Rivers read *Without Borders* by Amanda Heger: "It was interesting to read about a doctor traveling to villages in Nicaragua to treat people."

A reader from Greenfield read *Coco: the novel* by Patricia Soliman: "While the story dragged a bit, the descriptions of all the different areas of France were so vibrant, I felt like I'd visited."

A reader from Framingham read *The Wager* by David Grann: "This book really showed the daily misery of ship life, but I think it also did a good job of not sugarcoating the atrocities that Britain and other colonial powers committed. I appreciated the moral dilemmas presented in the book about ethics versus survival."

A reader from Worcester read *The Forest of Vanishing Stars* by Kristin Harmel: "The book is based on the fact that many Jews escaped the Nazis by living in the forest. However it is not well written. The main character, a German child kidnapped at age 2, by a mysterious elderly woman who raises her in the forest. A good premise but doesn't pan out. Language doesn't fit the character. Lack of information about surviving in the forest. For example it doesn't mention animals. Feels as the forest is relatively safe free from dangerous creatures. Food is what is gathered and fish."

A reader from Lowell read *Bel Canto* by Ann Patchett: "This book did a wonderful job of introducing many different characters and giving them each a personality of their own. By the end, I feel like I knew each of them, though the story itself was not my favorite."

A reader from Beverly read *Normal People* by Sally Rooney: "I selected this book because I'm going to Ireland for the first time this autumn. Unfortunately, this 'will they, won't they' romance between two self-absorbed young people was not my cup of tea."



A reader from SUTTON read *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* by Mohsin Hahmid: "A westernized Pakistani is radicalized by the changes effected after 9/11 and his return to Pakistan."

A reader from Hampden read *The Lost Apothecary* by Sarah Penner: "I loved this book. Taking place in England in the 1700's and current day. I love the history and should visit England someday."

A reader from Springfield read *The Book Thief* by Markus Zukas: "June's challenge/ book is a book set in a country you have never visited. I took a trip to Germany in the book thief. This book was very slow in the beginning but to grew to love it. Such a sad story but so great! I recommend it!"

A reader from Reading read *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe: "A fascinating story about the cultural, religious, societal, and hierarchical order of an African community and what happens when colonial white missionaries arrive and impose their mores. Something about which I knew very little; glad to have gained some insight into the cultural history of this continent."

A reader from South Pasadena read *Beartown* by Fredrik Backman: "This novel was a genius work of emotion and artful language. It touched my soul and felt like an honest, deeply telling story of resilience, community, and humanity."

A reader from lincoln read *the gilded cage* by camilla lackberg: "I've enjoyed all of Lackberg's previous mystery series set in Sweden and recommend them to all esp in audio book format. She always paints a suspenseful and compelling picture!"

A reader from AMHERST read *The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency* by Alexander McCall Smith: "Relaxing bedtime book. Simple writing style and plot. I learned about the culture and values of Botswana."

A reader from Somerville read *The Grid: Electrical Infrastructure for a New Era* by Gretchen Bakke: "I read this on the recommendation of a friend who works in the wind energy industry. Overall, there was less of a structural critique than I expected from a book ostensibly about the grid as historical entity - for instance, Bakke discusses the wastefulness of disposable battery use in the military, but does not critique the structure of the military itself. It was very useful for problematizing the concept of "clean energy" and understanding why adopting clean energy 1. is not in the long term interest of the grid proprietors 2. often functions as a simple solution for a more complex problem. Houses on solar etc, still draw from the grid and to paint clean energy as the perfect solution is, ironically, greenwashing."

A reader from Somerville read *The Master & Margarita* by Mikhail Bulgakov, translated by Diana Burgin and Katherine Tiernan: "I deeply enjoyed Master & Maragarita, which my Slavic Studies major sister tells me is one of the few non depressing Russian books. I loved all the jokes about the hypocrisy of writers and how hard it is to get an apartment (same here in 2023 US, Mikhail!)"

A reader from Pelham read *Died in the Wool* by Ngaio Marsh: "I was struck by the remoteness of the setting-a sheep station in Nee Zealand, and how removed it seemed from World War II. I was also reminded of the rather brutal methods of murder that the author employed in her books. I may have to go back and reread her earlier works."

A reader from Belchertown read *A Rosie Life in Italy: Why Are We Here?* by Rosie meleady: "Great story about family struggles and interesting take on life in Italy."

A reader from Amesbury read *An Elderly Lady Must Not Be Crossed* by Helene Tursten: "A series of entertaining stories about an elderly women who finds murder is the easiest way to solve many of life's problems."

A reader from Dracut read *The Flatshare* by Beth O'Leary: "It was a fun light read."

A reader from Plainville read *The Adventures of Amina al-Sirafi* by Shannon Chakraborty: "Fantasy isn't always my cup of tea, but I really enjoyed this one!"

A reader from Dracut read *The devils ransom* by Brad thor: "Fast paced adventure!"

A reader from Amherst read *The Gallagers of Ardmore Trilogy* by Nora Roberts: "Loved the ghosts, fairies and folklore in the story."

A reader from Lincoln read *Akata Witch* by Nnedi Okafor: "An amazing first book in a triology set in Nigeria mixing fantasy with modern day. Sunny, the protagonist, is so strong even when she doesn't realize it and is someone I would love my daughter to look up to."

A reader from Attleboro read *One Italian summer* by Rebecca serle: "It was a fun book to read. It was interesting to see how someone can pick up their pieces and get in with their life."

A reader from Wakefield read *Before Your Memory Fades* by Toshikazu Kawaguchi: "It was so good! I had already read books 1 and 2 in the series. This book touched a little more on remembering those who had passed, which pulled on your heartstrings a little more."

A reader from Yarmouth Port read *The Book of Everlasting Things* by Aanchal Malhotra: "Beautifully written about love and loss because of the separation of India and Pakistan in 1948."

A reader from Norton read *The Lemon Tree* by Sandy Tolan: "An interesting perspective, but a difficult, heavy read."

A reader from Chicopee read *The Littlest Library* by Poppy Alexander: "A lighthearted, easy read set in Great Britain. The main character moves to a village in the UK after her beloved grandmother passes away & navigates village life. When she discovers she's purchased an old red phone booth with her cottage, she starts a library in it & watches how it enhances life in the little community."

A reader from Chicopee read *Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift: "A satiric tale of science, government, math, and morality by the narrator, who travels to islands that have never been discovered by humans. He encounters small inhabitants on the island of Lilliput, giants on the island of Brobdingnag, the floating city of Laputa, and the Yahoos and Houyhnhnm's in Houyhnhnm Land on his journeys."

A reader from Lowell read *War girls* by Tochi onyebuchi: "A story of 2 sisters torn apart by war, heartbreaking description of life and war in Nigeria."

A reader from Wilmington read *Botticelli's Muse* by Dorah Blume: "The main character of this book, which is set in Italy, is Italian Renaissance artist Sandro Botticelli. In the time of this book, 1477, with the Medici Family in power Sandro finds himself 'married' to his work until he meets a beautiful Jewish woman who steals his heart. Sandro is a complex and compelling character; one in which you find yourself always wanting to know more about. This is a long book with some difficult matter of a religious type. Part 1 of a trilogy and I would read the next one."

A reader from Attleboro read *The Twyford Code* by Janice Hallet: "Loved the ending!"

A reader from Scituate read *Portrait of an unknown woman* by Daniel Silva: "Fiction on art forgery based in Italy but going through France and a little of England. Insight into the world of art forgery and the fortunes involved. Although a novel it was well documented what was involved with this type of crime."

A reader from Belchertown read *Before the coffee gets cold* by Toshikazu Kawaguchi: "This novel got more and more beautiful as it went on. At first, I had some trouble getting into it, but the stories blend together more and more as the narrative progresses. The end even made me cry. The only part that took me out of the story was the in depth descriptions of medical conditions that drifted away from the character-driven story."

A reader from Agawam read *Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982* by Cho Nam-Joo: "Although this book is about a fictional Korean woman and her family, I learned a lot about gender inequality in South Korea and its negative impacts on women."

A reader from Cambridge read *Between the Wood and the Water* by Patrick Leigh Fermor: "Part II of Patrick Leigh Fermor's recollection of his youthful, pre-WWII walking journey to Constantinople. This volume takes the reader through Hungary and Transylvania (Rumania). Equal parts travelogue and history from a master English wordsmith."

A reader from Hadley read *The Story of Hong Gildong* by Unknown: "This is a new translation of the classic tale of the Korean outlaw king. The translator's introduction, which covered its cultural significance, info on the 30+ surviving MSs, and the role of early print books in Korea, was my favorite part. The story itself felt more like a simple folktale but is interesting in a historic and cultural context."

A reader from Beverly read *The Patience Stone* by Atiq Rahimi: "This book was very different from my usual read, taking place in Afghanistan, and mostly being the thoughts of a woman trapped by the war and her injured husband. I don't think I really liked the book, but it was interesting."

A reader from Fall River read *The Librarian* by Allie Morgan: "Billed as a memoir, this book recounts the author's story of her experiences working at two public libraries in Scotland and how she successfully wages a campaign against tremendous odds to save one of them from closure. Heartwarming, funny, and spot-on."

A reader from Lunenburg read *The Translation of Love* by Lynne Kutsukake: "A vivid description of life in Japan during US Occupation References Japanese internment camps in Canada (which I was unaware of any outside of the US)."

A reader from Chester read *The Historian* by Elizabeth Kostova: "An interesting and history-based Dracula tale. Long, but good."

A reader from Northampton read *THE GREEK REVOLUTION 1821 and the Making of Modern Europe* by Mark Mazower: "Interesting book about the complex series of uprisings that (eventually) led to Greek Independence. The author claims it also led to Modern Europe comprised of nation states."

A reader from NORTHAMPTON read *The Swiss Nurse* by Mario Escobar: "I love historical fiction, and this did not disappoint. I've read many books set in Europe during WW2, and this was a very different story."

A reader from Northampton read *City of Endless Nights* by D Preston and Xhild: "This is the 17th boom in the mystery/thriller series about iconoclast FBI Agent Pendergast with a NYC detective (in many novels). Great character development through the series but probably doesn't work as a stand alone novel."

A reader from Braintree read *Walking with Sam* by Andrew McCarthy: "Andrew McCarthy and his 20 year old son walk the 500 mile Camino de Santiago in Spain. If you are the parent of 20+year olds, you will find yourself laughing out loud or maybe pulling your hair out reading this amazing journey."

A reader from Wakefield read *The Dinner* by Herman Koch: "This book grew more and more unsettling as it progressed which is definitely an interesting reading experience. Like it almost gave me a physical stomach hurt reaction in some parts..."

A reader from BEVERLY read *A Distant Heart* by Sonali Dev: "Engaging characters and story line!"

A reader from Beverly read *Silent House* by Orhan Pamuk: "After Pamuk won the Nobel Prize in 2006, his early works, like *Silent House*, were then translated. This book, written in 1983, was translated and published in English in 2012. It's set in Turkey, where I have never been, providing a dramatic view of social, political and cultural tensions that marked Turkey at various times in its history. The story's characters are each in their own ways - and at various turns - endearing, maddening, complicated. I learned that Turkey and Turkish people contain multitudes of experiences, opinions, and dreams."

A reader from South Weymouth read *Unholy land* by Lavie tidhar: "I did not like that the book kept switching perspectives and did not feel connected to Tirosh, the main character."

A reader from Salem read *Eleanor Oliphant is completely fine* by Gail Honeyman: "Engaging and nuanced story."

A reader from West Simsbury read *The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu* by Joshua Hammer: "Exciting non-fiction account of the race to save precious manuscripts from the hands of Al Qaeda. I am amazed and grateful for how much I have learned about a part of the world I knew nothing about."

A reader from Craryville read *The Enchanted April* by Elizabeth Von Arnim: "A charming story about how the beauty of an Italian village healed the souls of four disenchanting English women. Takes place in Portofino Italy, a country I hope to visit someday."

A reader from Sutton read *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah: "Having read numerous books set during WWII, this one offers the unique perspective of a young woman who, living on a farm in rural France, joins the Resistance, guiding downed Allied airmen across the Pyrenees to Spain."

A reader from Wilmington read *And the Mountains Echoed* by Khaled Hosseini: "Such an emotional story. So much sadness, but also hope. The characters are so believable, so tragic. I won't soon forget this one."

A reader from Paxton read *We Don't Know Ourselves* by Fintan O'Toole: "A thoroughly unique history of modern Ireland that combines the author's personal history with that of Ireland."

A reader from Beverly read *Lightseekers* by Femi Kayode: "Great detective book. Can't wait for the sequel!"

A reader from Beverly read *A Madness of Sunshine* by Nalini Singh: “This was a page turner! The scenery could be pictured, the characters were sympathetic and rich, with just the right amount of detail to keep the reader interested, and the twists and turns weren't always expected! It's set in New Zealand, where I was visiting while reading. It was really fun to read some of the Maori (Indigenous People's) language with which I had become a little bit familiar!”

A reader from Wellesley read *Burning my Roti* by Sharan Dhaliwal: “This book is part memoir, part thought piece, and part call to action. It was an incredibly interesting read, especially when it comes to colonization's role in racism.”

A reader from Beverly read *La Passione How Italy Seduced The World* by Dianne Hales: “Dianne Hales believes that no country has matched Italy's impact on culture. She asks the reader to think of literature, art, music, fashion, and food. Hales reveals the secret to Italy's success, la passione. Italians have always lived their lives with zest and verve no matter their trials or hardships. They have appreciated the sensual, expressed feelings, and held family close. They have enjoyed food and laughter with each other. They have been thankful for the gifts of the earth and it's changing seasons. Italians have chosen the bello over the brutto. Sounds like a wonderful way to live!”

A reader from Amesbury read *Gods of Jade and Shadow* by Silvia Moreno-Garcia: “The lush settings, the Mayan-inspired mythology, and the dynamic characters combined to make this an engaging and enjoyable read.”

A reader from Worcester read *The Return: Fathers, Sons and The Land in Between* by Hisham Matar: “Hisham Matar offers an attuned rendering of political exile, of the unsuccessful search for his father, a political prisoner held in Libya. The book combines a sensitive political memoir at once of family and country and of international complications and complicities...”

A reader from East Taunton read *Behind The Wheel* by R.A. Montgomery: “I really liked this book because of the multiple endings based on my choices in the book.”

A reader from Medford read *Hotel du Lac* by Anita Brookner: “The book takes place in Switzerland (a country I've never visited) and is the first by Anita Brookner that I've ever read. She writes well, very descriptively, but it took me a while to read this short book because it was rather slow moving and a bit depressing--I gather that this writer often writes about older, lonely women, and this book is no exception.”

A reader from Seekonk read *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue* by V.E. Schwab: “This tome puts the reader right into the heartbreak, pain, joy, and joie de vivre of the titular character.”

A reader from Pembroke read *Nothing But Blackened Teeth* by Cassandra Khaw: “I really enjoyed this. It's a slow burn horror story that I found to be very visceral.”

A reader from Wilbraham read *Peony* by Pearl S Buck: “A novel set in Kaifeng, China in the 19th century, among a small Jewish settlement. Peony is a beloved housemaid to a wealthy family. A constant tug of assimilation is present and challenging. It is a fascinating look at another time and place, illustrating challenges we all face and sacrifices some make for the sake of others.”

A reader from Northampton read *To the Lighthouse* by Virginia Woolf: “A classic tale about the passing of time and the mundanities of existence. Loved it!”

A reader from South Hamilton read *The Housekeeper and the Professor* by Yoko Ogawa: "A slim, engaging book that will expand and solidify your understanding of mathematics while diving deep into human relationship and the inner workings of the mind."

A reader from Salem read *The Tsar of Love and Techno* by Anthony Marra: "It took me a while to understand how each of the stories was intertwined, but one I became more familiar with the story's landscape it became more enjoyable."

A reader from Fitchburg read *The Paris Apartment* by Lucy Foley: "An engaging thriller! ★★☆☆"

A reader from Niantic read *The Night Travelers* by Armando Lucas: "Such an interesting story of Germany and Nazism and Cuba and Communism with generations of a family traversing among both."

A reader from New York read *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See: "I have never visited anywhere in Asia and I enjoyed reading about the matriarchal diving culture on the Korean island of Jeju. The author did a great job of describing the island's landscape and culture, and I felt like I had visited Jeju after reading."

A reader from Stoneham read *The Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexandre Dumas: "A staggering, epic romantic adventure story of love and revenge, of despair and hope, of death and life."

A reader from PLYMOUTH read *The Treeline* by Ben Rawlence: "Always aware of global warning with respect to ocean. (avid Scuba Instructor) The Treeline showed MORE climate change to me a profound way."

A reader from Beverly read *Brian's Winter* by Gary Paulsen: "I really liked learning about a boy trying to survive the North Canadian wilderness in the winter. I also enjoyed the ending of the book."

A reader from northampton read *once upon a river* by Diane Setterfield: "A dreamy and haunting story, and a story about storytelling. An enjoyable journey!"

A reader from Springfield read *The Hypnotist* by Lars Kepler: "A real page turner set in Sweden. Detective Joona Linna must solve a mass murder and find a kidnapped boy. Couldn't put it down!"

A reader from Melrose read *The many daughters of a fong moy* by Jamie Ford: "Wonderful weaving of generational storylines."

A reader from Andover read *A Passage to India* by E.M. Forster: "Beautiful, this whole imperialistic society and the effect on the individual in India."

A reader from Andover read *Diary of a Void* by Emi Yagi: "The surrealist tone of this book was an interesting and playful entry point into themes of loneliness, womanhood in Japan, and sexism."

A reader from Brookline read *Birnam Wood* by Eleanor Catton: "Compelling story of a guerilla planting group set in New Zealand."

A reader from Paxton read *On the Noodle Road: From Beijing to Rome with Love and Pasta* by Jen Lin-Liu: "I loved the descriptions of food through the author's journey! It was interesting to follow her travels along the Silk Road and read about the food she ate."

A reader from Erving read *Norwegian by Night* by Derek B. Miller: "Mixed feelings - it took me many pages before I really committed to reading it. The main character annoyed me. Making it hard for me to keep reading. I'm well into it now, though and curious to see how all the mysteries and subplots will ultimately resolve. There are a number of subplots that are, of course, related in some way to each other."

A reader from Lunenburg read *39 Clues #8* by Gordon Korman: "Good book to read with the kids. They are helping me keep track of all the players!"

A reader from Northampton read *Paris in Love* by Eloisa James: "A memoir of a year in Paris by academic/romance novelist Eloisa James. It was evocative, and I felt very jealous."

A reader from West Yarmouth read *Three O'clock in the Morning* by Gianrico Carofiglio: "Set in Italy and Marseilles. A sweet connection between a dad and son brought on by one of life's curveballs."

A reader from Hopkinton read *Beasts of a Little Land* by Juhea Kim: "60 years of personal triumph and tragedy for multiple characters living in a country going through its own quest for freedom and independence after decades of foreign control."

A reader from WILBRAHAM read *Britt-Marie Was Here* by Fredrik Backman: "The story takes place in Sweden and is written by the author of *A Man Called Ove*. Britt-Marie is able to make a difference in the lives of the citizens of Borg, just by being who she is and learning to care for others. Nice story."

A reader from Attleboro read *Congo Sole* by Ntbonera: "Emmanuel Ntibonera's story of his return to his homeland, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, is inspiring. He saw the extreme poverty and was able to bring hope as well as the basic necessity of footwear."

A reader from Melrose read *The Mountains Sing* by Nguyễn Phan Quế Mai: "Heartbreaking and brutal view of the Vietnam War from the perspective of a North Vietnamese citizen. 5/5."

A reader from Beverly read *Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah: "Loved it! Great storyline wrapped up throughout the life story of sisters."

A reader from Forestdale read *She Started It* by Sian Gilbert: "I thought it was good. A little far fetched but loved the twist at the end."

A reader from Attleboro read *The Pearl That Broke Its Shell* by Nadia Hashimi: "Set in Afghanistan, this novel tells the story of Rahima and generations earlier, that of her great-great-grandmother, Shekiba and a custom known as bacha posh which prevails still. A heartbreaking but very insightful read."

A reader from Quincy read *Homecoming* by Kate Morton: "Unfortunately this book was unnecessarily long and slow."

A reader from Ludlow read *The Girl From the Channel Islands* by Jenny Lecoat: "Loved it, historically based fiction that brought to life the reality of occupied land during WW2. Author w/ family history who personally experienced such. Well worth reading!"

A reader from Forestdale read *Spare* by Prince Harry: "Book was boring in my opinion thought it would have more details about the history around Harry's life."

A reader from Hudson read *Clap When You Land* by Elizabeth Acevedo: "After their father dies in a plane crash, two young women find out their father lived a double life - he had one family in the US and one in the Dominican Republic. The girls individually explore their grief and try to make sense of this shocking revelation. Upon meeting, they begin to navigate their new bond and redefine what it means to be family. \*\* Trigger warning \*\*"

A reader from WAKEFIELD read *The Sun Walks Down* by Fiona McFarlane: "The story of a lost child is set in 19th century Australia. Beautiful descriptions of the countryside. Geraldine Brooks recommended this book during the library-sponsored Zoom webinar."

A reader from West Yarmouth read *Turn Right at Machu Picchu* by Mark Adams: "Totally delightful! Makes you want to grab a backpack and follow Bingham's route to his Machu Picchu discovery like the author. Adams shares the history of the area, tales from Bingham's adventures and his own journey with humour and great storytelling."

A reader from Weston read *Secret agents Jack and Max stalwart the fate of the Irish treasure* by Elizabeth Singer Hunt: "This book was a good story about how 2 kids tried to catch a robber and had a good plot twist at the end."

A reader from Weston read *Greeting from somewhere The Mystery of the Stolen Painting* by Harper Paris: "This was really good because they showed us some French words and I love how they were working so hard and they found the missing painting and found the crepe shop."

A reader from Belchertown read *Mrs Dalloway* by Virginia Woolf: "This is a classic that I had never read. Set in post WWI England it covers only one day in which Mrs Dalloway is preparing for an evening party. But we learn about many characters and the social strata of the time."

A reader from Hingham read *Prince in Disguise* by Stephanie Kate Strohm: "Fun read set primarily in Scotland that is perfect for fans of hallmark movies!"

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah: "Amazing book! I learned so much about the history of South Africa."

A reader from Franklin read *The Direction of the Wind* by Mansi Shah: "This book was initially very hard to put down. The structure jumped from present to past, which made me want to read through to find out what happened to the characters. This book was very easy to read and had a nice plot, although the end was not well developed and disappointing."

A reader from Lynnfield read *All Our Hidden Gifts* by Caroline O'Donoghue: "This YA book is set in Ireland and involves tarot cards, a mystery, a queer romance, and magical powers. All my favorite things!"

A reader from Stoneham read *The Shadowy Horses* by Susanna Kearsley: "Set in Scotland this book has so much to offer—Roman British history, archaeology, mystery, a bit of paranormal and a wonderful love story—or two. The characters are fully formed and each one adds to the plot which will hold you till the last page. A favorite reread, too."

A reader from Stoneham read *The Sinister Booksellers of Bath* by Garth Nix.

A reader from South Yarmouth read *Birdcatcher* by Gayle Jones: "I found Birdcatcher interesting and quirky. It was a view into the world of several adults the likes of whom, I don't think I have ever



experienced. Told in an honest forthright manner, it made me think about relationships and living with mental illness.”

A reader from Hudson read *The Stationery Shop* by Marjan Kamali: “This book takes place in Iran (and partly in MA!). I enjoyed reading about what was happening politically in the 1950s but with the backdrop of a fictional story.”

A reader from Shrewsbury read *The Map of Salt and Stars* by Zeyn Joukhadar: “This book is a reread for me. The author does a tremendous job depicting characters from 2 timelines following the same route. In the present day a family is making their way to safety as the civil war in Syria destroys their village while more than 800 years earlier, Rawiya a 16 yo daughter of a widow, disguises herself as Rami joining al-Idrisi, mapmaker commissioned by King Roger of Sicily as an apprentice. Both storylines detail the hardships of leaving the known world in search of a bigger, better life. This is a perfect read for anyone looking to broaden their understanding of why a family willingly embarks on the perilous journey of a refugee.”

A reader from Braintree read *Salt to the Sea* by Ruta Sepetys: “East Prussia, 1945. Historical fiction. Three refugees and a German sailor tell their personal stories, in alternating monologues, of their experiences toward the end of World War II. Riveting.”

A reader from South Easton read *The Bullet That Missed* by Richard Osman: “Another delightful entry in the Thursday Murder Club series!”

A reader from Allston read *The Dry* by Jane Harper: “I wanted to read a book set in AUS, but unfortunately the ones I found were true-crime ish. *The Dry* was one of them. It received great reviews but I had trouble getting through it.”

A reader from Montague read *The Summer Book* by Tove Jansson: “A charming book about a girl and her grandmother set on an island off the coast of Finland. Especially loved the pen and ink illustrations.”

A reader from Scituate read *The Door-to-Door Bookstore* by Carsten Henn: “This story about an elderly man who loves books and a quirky nine year old girl who accompanies him in delivering the perfect books to readers was enchanting. The translation from German was excellent.”

A reader from Dracut read *Last Violent Call* by Chloe Gong: “*Last Violent Call* is a set of two novellas in the same universe as *These Violent Delights* and *Lady Most Foul*, which is a Shakespeare inspired, alternate history with fantasy elements set in 1920s and 30s Shanghai. I've loved all these books and these novellas followed some of my favorite characters on mini adventures that were a lot of fun.”

A reader from Beverly read *The Paris Seamstress* by Natasha Lester: “It was a good read.”

A reader from Sunderland read *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman: “This was a reread. A fun, spooky adventure. Excitement, some chills, and admirable characters-- a delight!”

A reader from Bolton read *Galetea* by Madeline Miller: “I have read several of Miller's books and really like her historical fictional bend. In this one, I liked how she detailed the otherwise mundane life of a mason and added an atypical flair.”

A reader from Woods Hole read *Earthly Remains* by Donna Leon: “The writing was on par with other books from Donna Leon. This took me to an area around Venice, Italy I have never visited before.”

A reader from Danvers read *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi: "What a fascinating and heartbreaking telling of history on two continents impacted by the Transatlantic Slave Trade and grappling of two continents over questions of race, equity, class, identity, and more throughout generations."

A reader from Tewksbury read *Behind the Net* by Stephanie Archer: "It was cute hockey romance set in Canada."

A reader from Melrose read *Force of Nature* by Jane Harper: "A heartbreaking story of raw nature that should take any readers' breath away. It is the second book in the Aaron Falk series and I don't believe it suffers from the sophomore slump in the way other book series usually go."

A reader from Hamilton read *Normal People* by Sally Rooney: "Really enjoyed the writing, though the characters frustrated me at times!"

A reader from Dracut read *The Hacienda* by Isabel Cañas: "I thoroughly enjoyed this suspenseful book! It had the feel of a gothic horror novel, with strong character development and commentary of Mexico after the Mexican war of independence."

A reader from Beverly read *An American in Scotland* by Lucy Connolly: "A book set in the wilds of Scotland."

A reader from Holden read *The Sorcerer of Pyongyang* by Marcel Theroux: "Clearly, a book set in North Korea counts as a country I've never visited. The premise of the book, a North Korean loyalist discovering the role playing game Dungeons and Dragons and how it changed the course of his life is a great hook. The writing and twists in the story make you want to stay until the end."

A reader from Buckland read *On a Night of a Thousand Stars* by Andrea Yaryura Clark: "I knew nothing about Argentina during the mid-seventies during the Peron period. I have not and probably won't be going there in the future. I enjoyed learning about that period. I do like how the author used the two time periods to present the story."

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A reader from Sandwich read *The Little Italian Hotel* by Phadera Patrick: "Radio talk show advice host faces divorce just before her 25th anniversary. The get away she had planned for her and her husband falls through so she invites 4 strangers who have also experienced heartache to come with her. Not one of her better stories. Plot is not very well planned out and much of it is cliché."

A reader from Falmouth read *Children of the Street* by Kwei Quartey: "This mystery takes place in Ghana, and it's the second in a series. Quartey has the ability to immerse me in Africa even though I've never been there. Although it's a bit graphic, it's a wonderful series."

A reader from Leominster read *The Maps of Memory* by Marjorie Agosin: "Powerful, beautiful novel of remembrance and healing after a brutal Chilean dictator and his regime are ousted. Some of the lost are found, and people begin to heal from their deep trauma and suffering."

A reader from Brewster read *Mozart: A Life* by Paul Johnson: "Mozart - a musical genius! Learned about his life and his musical compositions."

A reader from Los Alamos read *Look for Me There* by Luke Russert: "I traveled with Luke on a three year, six continent journey to nearly 70 countries as he sought answers and shared honestly. I'm glad I went with him."

A reader from Boxford read *Crazy Rich Asians* by Kevin Kwan: "It's really interesting to read about a country and culture I know very little about."

A reader from Somerville read *Don't Look Back* by Karin Fossum: "Riveting crime story with a major twist at the beginning! I read this before traveling to Norway in early July and it was great to get a feel for the culture and literature of the country I was exploring before I got there."

A reader from Lowell read *The Paris Dressmaker* by Kristy Cambron: "I liked how the author explored French women's resistance to the Nazis' occupation of Paris through fashion. I enjoyed the mystery surrounding the custom Chanel dress and how it touched the lives of two women in the French Resistance."

A reader from Lunenburg read *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen: "My most favorite book."

A reader from Erving read *Ireland a Concise History* by Maire & Conor Cruise O' Brien: "It went back to prehistoric times & was much more involved with the details than I expected. It revealed how the Irish have been oppressed from the beginning of time & at some times were even treated as slaves; very depressing to learn this but history is history. I'd hoped for a more positive outlook on the lives of the Irish people."

A reader from Burlington read *Watermelon* by Marian Keyes: "A good mix of humor and life lessons in a witty fast-paced read. Keyes has a distinctly chatty style of writing, with a lot of inner dialogue for her characters, which can be a bit much at times but is mostly fun. I chose it for the Ireland setting, which didn't disappoint but wasn't really a feature of the book."

A reader from Beverly read *Homage to Catalonia* by George Orwell: "Excellent descriptive prose; Orwell relates his direct "on the ground" experiences during 1936-37 in the Catalonia region of Spain. Parts memoir, history and political philosophy, he manages to disentangle the confusion and misinterpretation in discussion re: Spanish civil war. What a writer; what a thinker."

A reader from Shrewsbury, MA 01545, USA read *While Paris Slept* by Ruth Druert: "A sad poignant story of a family that escaped Paris during wartime 1944 and all that transpired to bring them to their current life in Santa Cruz in 1953. Suddenly they are confronted with the past and the circumstances that brought them to this point. Well worth the read !!"

A reader from Hadley read *Who Fears Death* by Nnedi Okorafor: "It was not like any other book I have read before. I enjoyed how it portrayed someone struggling against and yet trying to integrate different elements of tradition."

A reader from Providence read *Death Comes As The End* by Agatha Christie: "Agatha Christie is the world's best-selling novelist for a reason! Set in Ancient Egypt, plenty of twists and turns to keep the reader guessing until the end!"

A reader from Revere read *Pride & Prejudice* by Jane Austen: "This book is a classic that I had doubts about whether I would like it. It turns out I enjoyed it very much."

A reader from Reading read *The Expats* by Chris Pavone: "A spy adventure novel, set in Luxembourg. The thriller story was a nice change of pace from my usual reads and I enjoyed all the European settings."

A reader from Bolton read *The Survivors* by Jane Harper: "A good story of how the past can haunt you. Set in Australia."

A reader from Randolph read *The Widows of Malabar Hill* by Sujata Massey: "This is a wonderful, well written and researched story set in colonial India in the 1920's. The main character is a young woman aspiring to become the first woman to be admitted to law school officially and ultimately to practice law in India, a course of study and career that was not allowed at that time. This is a detailed look at life in India under British rule, the sectarian Indian culture and a murder mystery solved ultimately by the intrepid lawyer-to-be heroine."

A reader from Wilmington read *A Woman Alone: Travel Tales from Around the Globe* by Faith Conlon (Editor), Ingrid Emerick (Editor), Christina Henry de Tessian (Editor): "India, Australia, Italy, Faroe islands, USA, Thailand, Brazil, Indonesia, France, Ireland, Belize, Guatemala, Bhutan, India/Pakistan, Mongolia, Seychelles, Mexico, Turkey, Jordan, Spain, Uzbekistan, Japan, Senegal, Switzerland, Niger.

^those were the various countries visited by women who traveled alone by themselves. i have never read a travel book before and it was great to live vicariously through the authors experiences. i know it isnt visiting the countries myself, but it feels i have after brief exposure to what these various women have experience. my favorite part about all of this is just experiencing it not as myself (a man) but seeing the eyes through women and what they have to deal with as they traveled alone throughout the world. the one major motif common to every single tale and story in the entire collection of stories is that every single women learned more about themselves after traveling by themselves. they learned what they can or can't do and they learned how to rely on the kindness of strangers vs. leaning on their own self will. that was very refreshing to read about it. all in all, what a great reading experience, this is a book that i would have never picked up on my own. i was browsing the section of my local library and happened upon it and based on flipping through the text alone, i decided to read it for this month. what a great read!"

A reader from Dracut read *The Messenger of Athens* by Anne Zouroudi: "Booking a ticket to Greece now! I will absolutely be reading the rest of the books in the series soon!"

A reader from S. Weymouth read *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi: "This was a different read for me - being a graphic novel and about a country I have little familiarity with. Other than that, it was a thoughtful and informative read. I like her style of writing."

A reader from Boston read *City of Veils* by Zoe Ferraris: "My book group debated about the extent to which Ferraris, who lived briefly in Saudi Arabia, is using her fiction to process the trauma of her experience there. But in the absence of "own voices" books from the country, we decided we were grateful even for her quasi-insider perspective."

A reader from BEVERLY read *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaleo Hussein: "Grabbed my attention right from the beginning. Heartwrenching."