



2023 Reading Challenge

DECEMBER

A book published
in 2023

A reader from Northampton read *Bookshops & Bonedust* by Travis Baldree: “A cozy fantasy mystery set in a seaside town. Cozier than my usual fare but very nice for some light reading. It has so many likable characters!”

A reader from Woods hole read *Most delicious poison* by Noah Whiteman: “A very interesting read about how we are surrounded by toxins that naturally exist. A very interesting read where u learn new things also.”

A reader from Burlington read *Murder in the Family* by Cara Hunter: “A true crime documentary breaks apart a 20-year-old murder and discovers what really happened. Told via transcripts, chats, and news articles, this book is a unique way to read a thriller.”

A reader from Amherst read *The Last Devil to Die* by Richard Osman: “This is the best of the series-I've read them all. The characters are more developed, the storyline was excellent. I love the series, especially because it focuses on older adults who are truly fascinating characters.”

A reader from Whately read *Veg Forward* by Susan Spungen: "I was delighted to find a cookbook with not one or two recipes I wanted to make, but more than a dozen! Spungen has captured many of the current food trends and ingredients of today's kitchens made them feel accessible. I also like that she used her iPhone to photograph the food as she worked on the recipes in this book. Yes, she is a food stylist (among other things), so everything is beautifully casual on the plate/page. I like knowing that with experience, and good lighting, it is possible to create such mouth-watering images."

A reader from Attleboro read *Mrs. Plansky's Revenge* by Spencer Quinn: "Okay, but I enjoyed this author's other books more. It was too easy to just skim through many parts rather than reading every word to get the idea of the book."

A reader from Chicopee read *Don't Tell Anybody the Secrets I Told You: A Memoir* by Lucinda Williams: "A look into the making of one of our best Independent Singer-Songwriters who didn't listen to the record company executives that couldn't put her in their mold. She had a difficult childhood and it paved the way for great songwriting."

A reader from Beverly read *In the Form of a Question: The Joys and Rewards of a Curious Life* by Amy Schneider: "A quirky story of events in the life of Amy Schneider, that I enjoyed reading from start to finish."

A reader from South Hadley read *The Disney Revolt: The Great Labor War of Animation's Golden Age (paperback)* by Jake S. Friedman: "First of all, yes, the book was originally published in 2022 but the publication date of the paperback edition was 2023 and so I stand by my choice to count this book in this category because I mostly read backlist books so please let me count this! :b But also this book was AWESOME. Not quite as Shakespearean as Disney War (such a good book) but I learned a ton and it definitely kept my attention, it was a great read, solid 4 stars."

A reader from Westford read *Midnight at the Houdini* by Delilah S. Dawson: "I enjoyed the book a lot, the mystery of the hotel and the people who reside there was fascinating to watch unfold. I felt the end wrapped the story up nicely as well."

A reader from Lynnfield read *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters: "Reading it now. And enjoying it."

A reader from Centerville read *The White Lady* by Jacqueline Winspear: "A non-Maisie Dobbs book. A gripping historical fiction whose protagonist was a British spy during WWI and WW2. There was one key plot point that I had difficulty believing but may make more sense if Winspear features this character in more novels."

A reader from Attleboro read *The Making of another Major Motion Masterpiece* by Tom Hanks: "I couldn't put the book down. Tom Hanks can write. It is an inside look at movie making and a thoughtful reflection on the changes in America over the decades. My last book for this 2023 Reading challenge. I'm so happy to have participated because I have read many books that I would not have picked out."

A reader from Essex read *Blood Sisters* by Vanessa Lillie: "A mystery and family drama that sheds light on the tragedy of the many missing and murdered, indigenous women, girls, and two spirit people."

A reader from Amherst read *Blood Sisters* by Vanessa Lillie: "Well-written, good plot, sympathetic heroine. It was more violent than I expected. I appreciated the exposure to Native American culture."

A reader from Bolton read *Daughters of Nantucket* by Julie Gerstenblatt: "I enjoyed this book immensely. It takes place in my home state of MA (Nantucket in 1846). Strong women surrounded by the ocean, drama, a fire, intrigue. Couldn't put it down!"

A reader from Groveland read *Drowning* by TJ Newman: "Strong start of the story. The author really pulls you in quickly."

A reader from Waltham read *I Keep My Exoskeletons to Myself* by Marisa Crane: "In the first few dozen pages, I thought it was going to be a very depressing book about surviving (or not) in the kind of autocracy we're all about to be living in. It ended up being more personal, and sort of more hopeful, than I expected."

A reader from West Falmouth read *I Am Homeless if This is Not My Home* by Lorrue Niire: "The story is a bit strange but engrossing."

A reader from Lowell read *Spirit Beasts: Echoes of the Moon* by Cody Rose: "This debut book was a very fun read by a Massachusetts author!"

A reader from Leominster read *Pucking Ever After volume 2* by Emily Rath: "Smutty hockey romance with Christmas vibes."

A reader from Brookline read *Number go up* by Zeke Faux: "A fascinating expose of the wild and whacky world of cryptocurrency, including the FTX debacle."

A reader from Naples read *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride: "James McBride accomplished jazz musician, songwriter, and author (Deacon King Kong) has hit it out of the ball park with this one. He has assembled a cast of diverse and interesting characters who live and work side by side...it is a novel of love and prejudice, race and kindness infused with humor and written with love and understanding of the human condition. Not to be missed."

A reader from Weymouth read *Spare* by Prince Harry: "Spare is an emotional, heartfelt explanation of life lived in a fishbowl. It chronicles the vicious publication of stories and their effect on the lives of the Royals. It clearly shows that privileged life is not always as wonderful as it might seem to be."

A reader from Hopkinton read *Pineapple Street* by Jenny Jackson: "A book about the rich - I wanted to see how it all needed, but found it more annoying than anything! I enjoyed the writing and would like to check out more of Jackson's work."

A reader from Randolph read *Small Mercies* by Dennis Lehane: "Close to home both physically and emotionally. Glad I read this for the end of the 2023 challenge."

A reader from Merrimac read *Don't Let Them Bury My Story: The Oldest Living Survivor of the Tulsa Race Massacre in Her Own Words* by Viola Ford Fletcher: "At 109-years old, everyday Mother Fletcher relives the massacre that took place in her hometown of Greenwood, OK in 1921. Her bravery and voice remind us how important it is not to forget our history ... the good and the bad."

A reader from Middleboro read *None of This Is True* by Lisa Jewell: "All of my book club members gave this 4 stars or more! Enjoyable and not entirely predictable which is hard in this genre if you read a lot!"

A reader from Melrose read *Hello Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano: "I was looking forward to this book all year because I really liked the author's debut novel, Hello Edward. It was good, maybe a little too neatly packaged, but worth the read."

A reader from Palmer read *Murder Your Employer* by Rupert Holmes: "A darkly humorous tale framed as a how-to manual for those who can't attend the McMasters Conservatory, Murder Your Employer gives us the case study of a few students of said conservatory in "deleting" their really terrible bosses."

A reader from Amherst read *Chain-Gang All-Stars* by Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah: "Incredible. What a satire that also isn't satire. Should have won the National Book Award."

A reader from Fitchburg read *The mostly true story of Tanner and Louise* by Colleen Oakley: "Laugh out loud, female road trip with two very different women. Sharing the road with their relationship and adventures is a fun and poignant ride."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Weyward* by Emilia Hart: "This sweeping historical fantasy novel unfolds in three timelines — 1619, 1942, and 2019 — via three related women. With magical and ethereal prose that entrances the reader, the story weaves an immersive and unputdownable tale of endurance and empowerment in the face of toxic masculinity."

A reader from Dracut read *After the Internet* by Tiziana Terranova: "Bought this book during my first trip to NYC. Read it on the night bus back to Boston (I had two espresso martinis and a lot of time). Reflected on how our world has been hacked by a content-consuming mindset."

A reader from Stoneham read *Fourth Wing* by Rebecca Yarros: "A little more YA ish for my taste but still engaging and worth the top reads of the year."

A reader from Paxton read *The Woman in Me* by Britney Spears: "Really makes you feel bad and root for her. But then I checked her Instagram lol."

A reader from WAKEFIELD read *The Heaven & Earth Grocery store* by James McBride: "Interesting characters, good storytelling, and a positive message, but a bit scattered and convoluted."

A reader from WAKEFIELD read *The Heaven & Earth Grocery store* by James McBride: "I had really high hopes for this book, and while I did like most of the main characters, it was a little too convoluted and confusing with so many side stories and scheming and coverups. That said, some of the characters like Chona and Dodo, and even Monkeypants will stick with me for a long time."

A reader from Amherst read *The Spectacular* by Fiona Davis: "Marion loves to dance. She takes lessons and dreams of becoming a Rockette at the famous Radio City Music Hall. But it's the 1950's and nice young women from nice families like hers do not become dancers. So Marion abides by her father's wishes and starts teaching dance and keeps dating the man her father thinks is best for her future. But she can't shake her own dreams. She secretly tries out for and wins a spot on the Rockettes. So starts her journey towards independence and involvement in finding the person who has been terrorizing New York City by leaving bombs in popular destinations throughout the city for the past 16 years. The story is a good mix of family drama, mystery, intrigue and coming of age. Marion not only becomes a Rockette but she becomes quite the sleuth and independent woman."

A reader from north dighton read *Plantains and Our Becoming* by Melania Luisa Marte: "A fantastic collection of poems and transcribed spoken word pieces from a Slam champ. Personal, poignant, and real."

A reader from Amherst read *Final Acts* by Martin Edwards, editor: "A collection of fourteen mysteries centered around the theatre. I read one per day, and enjoyed the different writing styles and plots."

A reader from Longmeadow read *The General and Julia* by Jon Clinch: "What a remarkable read! Like many Americans, my familiarity with U.S. Grant was primarily as the Union General who won the Civil War and as a U.S. President often described (unfairly) as unsuccessful in that role. As the reader follows Grant reflecting on his entire life while writing his memoirs, a picture emerges of a complex man who was so much more than a military man or a politician. After reading this masterful novel, I will forever see U.S. Grant in a whole new light. I also look forward to reading more of Jon Clinch's work - what a storyteller!"

A reader from Gill read *The Book Club Hotel* by Sarah Morgan: "I enjoyed reading this book. It was corny and unrealistic but good."

A reader from Northampton read *All you have to do is call* by Kerri Maher: "This book was so timely given all we have going on in the world regarding women's reproductive rights. I was definitely inspired by the fierce women who created and ran the Jane Collective."

A reader from Hopkinton read *A Solitude of Wolverines* by Alice Henderson: "Love this new series about researcher, Alex Carter and learning about endangered animals."

A reader from Wakefield read *Snowed In* by Catherine Walsh: "This was an adorable Christmas rom com and I really enjoyed it. A little more adult than a Hallmark movie but a sweet story about two people who agree to a fake romance, and then it becomes real. I'd recommend this for anyone looking to read a holiday romance this month."

A reader from Wakefield read *The Wake Up Call* by Beth O'Leary: "This was a fun rom com about two co-workers/enemies turned lovers. It was a sweet story full of misunderstandings, lost loves, lost wedding rings and trying to save an English inn. Great end of the year read!"

A reader from Longmeadow read *The Woman In Me* by Britney Spears: "I'm torn on this book because on one hand I feel happy that she was able to speak her truth, and on the other hand, I feel it is very poorly written. I think the publishing team could have done a lot more to support her through editing and concept structure. Or perhaps it was intentional that the book just seems like a long string of thoughts. Either way, I am happy for her to be her own woman again."

A reader from BEVERLY read *Pageboy* by Elliot Page: "Really great read. The emotions coming through the storytelling are so powerful."

A reader from Braintree read *The River We Remember* by William Kent Krueger: "I loved this book....and all the others he has written! Truly enjoy how the author weaves Native American culture and traditions through his stories."

A reader from Methuen read *The Lost Bookshop* by Evie Woods: "A lovely mystery set in a Dublin bookshop that is full of magical realism, characters you want to be friends with, and the message that stories can fill us with wonder, hope and purpose when we need it most."

A reader from Salem read *The Little Liar* by Mitch Albom: "A classic Mitch Albom book, great as usual. I loved this different storytelling of WW2 and really enjoyed the story."

A reader from Topsfield read *Chrome Valley: Poems* by Mahogany L. Browne: "Dynamic, intense, powerful."

A reader from Worcester read *Northeaster* by Cathie Pelletier: "I enjoyed how the people's stories were interwoven throughout various chapters. It was an engaging book. One that I will recommend."

A reader from Scituate read *Necessary Trouble: Growing Up at Midcentury* by Drew Gilpin Faust: "Faust reflects with candor on her journey to define herself and chart her personal and professional course as a Baby Boomer, historian, and family member. By providing the context, she also makes connections to the present as we continue to face challenging times in our world."

A reader from Leominster read *A Haunting on the Hill* by Elizabeth Hand: "I read the book in a day so it certainly held my interest. Reflecting on it, I wanted more. More history of the house, more explanation of what happened. Maybe having a better memory of Shirley Jackson's book would have helped."

A reader from Berkley read *The Proof of the Pudding* by Rhys Bowen: "It was a great cozy mystery. Even Agatha Christie showed up to help."

A reader from Hamilton read *Happy place* by Emily Henry: "This was a fun, cute, quick read."

A reader from Hamilton read *The women in me* by Britney Spears: "This story was heart breaking. I am a fan of Britney's music and loved crossroads. I can't ever imagine treating anyone the way her family treated her, let alone my own children."

A reader from Greenfield read *The Curator* by OWEN KING: "It's an odd tale and I'm still trying to decide if I like the writing style."

A reader from Pepperell read *Renegade: Defending Democracy and Liberty in our Divided Country* by Adam Kinzinger & Michael D'Antonio: "An honest perspective on our country's current politics."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Starling House* by Alix E. Harrow: "Genre bending, creepy, and delightful. My first Alix E. Harrow book and I'll be reading more!"

A reader from Leeds read *Kissing Kosher* by Jean Meltzer: "I liked the concept of this book, but felt the author tried to do too much: an enemies to lovers romance, falling in love despite a chronic illness, saving the family business..."

A reader from Northfield read *The Little Village of Book Lovers* by Nina George: "Although the imagery was pleasing to my mind's eye, the construct of the presentation felt exceptionally annoying to me. I was drawn back to comments a high school creative writing teacher gently made to me about trying to be oh so clever but at the expense of authenticity. He said that readers do not like to be deceived. True for me in this instance."

A reader from Wilmington read *The Librarianist* by Patrick DeWitt: "A man's retrospective on his life, and the unexpected happenings."

A reader from Spencer read *The Cliff's Edge* by Charles Todd: "I always love Charles Todd's mysteries. But the tease about Simon in the description... Aarrggghh! (Hopefully it will resolve in the next book)."

A reader from Salem read *Same time next year* by Tessa Bailey: "Super cute and a good mood read for the time of year! Very steamy!"

A reader from Rochester read *In the Lives of Puppets* by TJ Klune: "TJ Klune once again does not disappoint! A hauntingly beautiful Pinocchio-retelling with a cast of memorable characters. Read it!"

A reader from Woburn read *The St. Ambrose School for Girls* by Jessica Ward: "I thought the writing in this was some of the best I've ever read. I also really liked the descriptions of a manic episode and some depressive ones. I have no idea how legitimate they are to someone who suffers from mental illness, but as far as I can tell, they were really well written."

A reader from Woburn read *Making it So: A Memoir* by Patrick Stewart: "What a charming story, with a great deal to say about acting, and an honest, often unflinching look at the life of one of my favorite actors."

A reader from Boston read *The Teachers* by Alexandra Robbins: "A year in the life account of three teachers and what really goes on behind the schools closed doors. As a retired teacher I could relate to the three teachers in the book."

A reader from Beverly read *The Woman in Me* by Britney Spears: "Heart wrenching to see the abuse and trauma she's endured."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *The River We Remember* by William Kent Krueger: "Loved this book, I have really enjoyed everyone of William Kent Krueger's books. You really fall for the characters and the way he writes about the setting, magical."

A reader from Braintree read *Small Mercies* by Dennis Lehane: "This was a great book. The main character, Mary Pat was very well developed. For someone who was not around during the busing of the 70's, it was a good primer."

A reader from Northampton read *The Running Grave* by Robert Galbraith: "Sorely needed editing - long, slow-moving, boring, and also implausible."

A reader from Fitchburg read *Yellowface* by R.F. Kuang: "I hated the main character in the text, however, it was such an interesting look at diversity in publishing."

A reader from Uxbridge read *The Secret Recipe of Ella's Dove* by Karen Hawkins: "Love this series."

A reader from Conway read *The Lost Wife* by Susanna Moore: "Interesting story that I enjoyed, fast paced, abrupt ending. Strong female character."

A reader from Charlton read *A Christmas Vanishing* by Anne Perry: "An Old Fashion Christmas mystery. The main character's friend is missing at Christmas and she seeks to find her. Through her search she comes to terms with changes she needs to make in her own life."

A reader from Beverly read *Brave Wild River* by Melissa Sevigny: "I enjoyed trying to picture the setting and characters in my mind."

A reader from Reading read *A First Time for Everything* by Dan Santat: "I really liked this book (and pretty much everything else by Dan Santat). The story is touching and the art is amazing. I recommended it to my 9-year-old who loves graphic novels, and she is enjoying it, too."

A reader from West Falmouth read *The Lioness of Boston* by Emily Franklin: "Fascinating historical fiction depicting the extraordinary life of Isabella Stewart Gardner. Loved reading it!"

A reader from Hampden read *The Vulnerables* by Sigrid Nunez: "I found this book to be like chatting with a friend about myriad topics and getting a voyeuristic sense of her life. Lots of interesting stuff, served up deliciously."

A reader from Turners Falls read *Little Monsters* by Adrienne Brodeur: "Interesting book about family dynamics. I enjoyed her writing style."

A reader from Beverly read *Defiant* by Brandon Sanderson: "It was a very fun end to the series. There are still a lot of open questions and things I wish I understood, but it was fun!"

A reader from Wilbraham read *Learned By Heart* by Emma Donoghue: "Interesting, thought provoking. I love Historical Fiction, but this was not an easy read. The prose in this book was very difficult for me to understand. Too many inconsequential characters."

A reader from Salem read *Our Share of Night* by Mariana Enriquez: "Captivating, for all of the almost 600 pages, in a shock to me. Each of the sections were fascinating and unsettling enough to keep me going through the horror and mystery."

A reader from Dartmouth read *All the Beauty in the World* by Patrick Bringley: "A very sweet book."

A reader from Plymouth read *Love, Theoretically* by Ali Hazelwood: "A super fun like read. Nice way to end the year."

A reader from KINGSTON read *Fuckery: The Life and Times of a Legend (In her own mind)* by Judy Harrington: "This was one of the last books recommended to me by the owner of Books & Sundry in Plymouth before it closed doors in August. And she was right. Judy Harrington is hilarious."

A reader from Kingston read *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters: "One of my favorite reads for 2023."

A reader from Franklin read *Sure, I'll Join Your Cult* by Maria Bamford: "I'm listening to one of my favorite comedians, Maria Bamford's memoir in audiobook. So far, she's manic as always and completely off the rails. Love her honesty and life struggle to not only survive, but thrive!"

A reader from Reading read *The Last Devil to Die* by Richard Osman: "Another great book in the series featuring the quartet of some of my current favorite characters in literature. Old people rule! I'm only sad that presumably we'll have to wait another year for the next one."

A reader from Gill read *Somebody's Fool* by Richard Russo: "Still reading it, but very good. Hard to imagine a Bath Trilogy book without Sully, but Sully's son will do, looking good..."

A reader from Gill read *Somebody's Fool* by Richard Russo: "Still reading but classic Russo, with many different characters and story threads, all of them absorbing and entertaining, playing out in the familiar terrain of Bath and Schuylar Falls, New York. Sully's son does him proud."

A reader from Scituate read *Rent To Be* by Sonia Hartl: "Fun and entertaining read that laughed at serious relatable topics."

A reader from Lowell read *The Trees Grew Because I Bled There: Collected Stories* by Eric LaRocca: "Some stories really stick with you"

A reader from Weymouth read *California Golden* by Melanie Benjamin: "I enjoyed reading about the early days of California surfing and the culture. Mother, daughter and sister drama get caught up in it too. Good read."

A reader from Lowell read *It's a Date (Again)* by Jenava Rose: "It was a cute easy romance read."

A reader from Weymouth read *Your Brain on Art: How the Arts Transform Us* by Yo Susan Magsamen and Ivy Ross: "Although, I heard a good amount of the research before there was also some new research."

A reader from Harwich read *North Woods* by Daniel Mason: "This brilliant, engaging, and beautifully written novel takes readers on a three-century journey through a very specific place in western Massachusetts. The dwelling (added on to, and periodically altered), and the land (cleared, planted, reclaimed by nature) bear witness to the love, loss, joy, sadness, life, and death of the well-developed human characters."

A reader from Weymouth read *Please, Sorry, Thanks* by Mark Batterson: "Always great to be reminded of the simple gestures of getting along in life. Love Mark's books."

A reader from SCITUATE read *Dayswork* by Bachelder & Habel: "A must-read for Melville fans! Unlike any other book; hard to describe. A couple explores Melville's history during the COVID shutdown. You'll thank me later."

A reader from Springfield read *Bonding: A Love Story About People and Their Parasites* by Matthew Erman, Emily Pearson(illustrator): "This was an interesting read looking at what it means to truly connect to people. In this graphic novel about people with parasites on their cheeks this book also deals with the fear of having forced upon your body without your permission."

A reader from North Easton read *Making it So: A Memoir* by Patrick Stewart: "Entertaining, learned lots of interesting things about Patrick Stewart. My husband and I listened to the audiobook while traveling together and it made the trip more enjoyable."

A reader from Weymouth read *The Writing Retreat* by Julia Bartz: "I went into this novel thinking it would be like an Agatha Christie or Lucy Foley book where you have a group of people trapped together and then a murder happens, prompting you to deduce which person is the killer. But this book took a sharp turn off this course with a twist of Stockholm Syndrome. It was an interesting read, albeit a bit farfetched."

A reader from Middleboro read *Murder on Mustang Beach* by Alicia Bessette: "An enjoyable murder mystery that kept me interested all the way through."

A reader from Atkinson read *People to Follow* by Olivia Worley: "Social media influencer story inspired by *And Then There Were None*. Super fun read!!"

A reader from Attleboro read *Diary of a Wimpy Kid No Brainer* by Jeff Kinney: "This was a fun book for me to read with my middle schooler. It was really relevant to today's society and to technology advancements."

A reader from Beverly read *Whalefall* by Daniel Kraus: "Interesting crossover between science fiction and thriller that kept me on the edge of my seat. It reminded me of Andy Weir's books except that instead of knowing a bunch of facts about space I now know a bunch of facts about whale bellies."

A reader from Springfield read *The Color of Always* by Brett Fisher & Michele Abounader: "An artist I follow contributed to this anthology, that's how I found it! A great collection of queer stories."

A reader from Yorba Linda read *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters: "Excellent! Lovely language and beautifully written. Emotional story about a child who mysteriously disappears, leaving behind a devastated family."

A reader from Norwell read *What an Owl Knows* by Jennifer Ackerman: "What an Owl Knows is a fascinating read, with lots of information on owls and even more about the research methods and strategies used to study them."

A reader from Boston read *Glossy: Ambition, Beauty, and the Inside Story of Emily Weiss's Glossier* by Marisa Meltzer: "I didn't really enjoy this, but that's okay. I felt like there wasn't really enough for a book (yet)."

A reader from Weymouth read *The Book Club Hotel* by Sara Morgan: "Excellent story. Just right for the holidays and colder weather."

A reader from Sutton read *Faker* by Sarah Smith: "One of my favorite type of romance novels where the main characters start off hating each other and then fall in love! I didn't want to put the book down!"

A reader from Wilmington read *The Seven Year Slip* by Ashley Poston: "I loved this book! I suppose I'd call it a romance novel, but it's also magical, and the main character deals with grief as well. It was a pleasant surprise."

A reader from Chelmsford read *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride: "I saved the best for last. I could go on about how wonderfully plotted and beautifully written this novel is, but I'll simply say: this is a James McBride novel."

A reader from Salem read *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett: "Another really sweet book about life and the unexpected twists that make it great."

A reader from Salem read *The Woman In Me* by Britney Spears: "I wish I could've loved it but it was so poorly written. I feel so much for Britney, still."

A reader from Salem read *The Woman in Me* by Britney Spears: "I support Britney's journey but this really wasn't a great book."

A reader from Hopkinton read *The peacock and the sparrow* by L.S. Berry: "It was not the best book that I read all year, but it wasn't bad. The protagonist wasn't particularly sympathetic, but he was interesting enough to keep reading. The plot was not predictable, which is good for a spy novel."

A reader from Sandwich read *The Old Lion: Teddy Roosevelt* by Jeff Shaara: "This book is a compilation of the important periods of Teddy Roosevelt's life. It gives insight to events that influenced his character, the successes he enjoyed & the sorrows he endured. To quote him: "We must either wear out or rust out. My choice is to wear out!""

A reader from Barnstable read *The Lock Up* by John Banville: "Wonderful work of fiction. Flawed tragic characters working to solve a mystery and find redemption. Surprise twist at the end!"

A reader from STOUGHTON read *Iron Flame* by Rebecca Yarros: "Brilliant!!!"

A reader from South Hadley read *Democracy Awakening* by Heather Cox Richardson: "Well written and researched thought provoking telling of current history informed by our collective past."

A reader from Melrose read *The Laughter* by Sonora Jha: "Very funny, sharply written send-up of academia with the twist of modern issues of racism, xenophobia, terrorism. The narcissist narrator is hilariously unreliable but ultimately very, very sad."

A reader from East longmeadow read *Mother-Daughter Murder Night* by Nina Simon: "I enjoyed the books the development of the main characters and the unexpected twists and turns in the story."

A reader from Sandwich read *The Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese: "A fabulously written saga portraying all that is family and the connections and paths that constitute life."

A reader from Hopkinton read *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett: "A quiet book, wonderfully narrated by Meryl Streep. It helps to be familiar with *Our Town*, the play."

A reader from hampden read *Someone else's shoes* by jojo moyes: "Loved it! Love her style!"

A reader from Brockton read *The Five Star Weekend* by Elin Hilderbrand: "I really enjoyed this book about friendships we form through all the stages of our lives."

A reader from Somerville read *The Future* by Naomi Alderman: "I love a good dystopia and this was especially creative and surprising and different from anything else I've read. Great for fans of *The Circle* by Dave Eggers!"

A reader from Amesbury read *Everyone in My Family Has Killed Someone* by Benjamin Stevenson: "Nothing like a little murder to get into the holiday spirit."

A reader from Seekonk read *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride: "Not my favorite book this year. It all wraps up at the end but where each chapter has very detailed stories, but details of the most important part of the story (Dodo's rescue) is non-existent."

A reader from Taunton read *Let It Crow! Let It Crow! Let It Crow!* by Donna Andrews: "Latest in Meg Langslow mystery series. Entertaining, humorous, informative! Meg is a blacksmith, large multi generational family in Virginia! Start with number one and you will be addicted to the series!"

A reader from NORTHAMPTON read *My Roommate Is a Vampire* by JENNA LEVINE: "FINALLY A GOOD BOOK!"

A reader from Hanover read *This Other Eden* by Paul Harding: "This is a very interesting look at racism, love and hope. Very thought provoking. Happy New Year!"

A reader from Hampden read *Scorched Grace* by Margot Douaihy: "Quick read. The author definitely kept it interesting in wanting to find out what really did happen! Looking forward to the next books in the series!"

A reader from Beverly read *Wildfire* by Hannah Grace: "Light, entertaining read!"

A reader from Weymouth read *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Lost Christmas!* by Alistair Heim: "We bought this at the same time as my November book challenge in the local Hanover bookstore. My 8yo was very excited for me to use this book as my December challenge (even though I also bought *The Lost Bookshop*.) Time slipped right by and I haven't had a chance to open my chosen book, so I'm glad we were able to learn a lesson about what it means to be a good friend, even when your friend is having a difficult time."

A reader from Milford read *The Art Thief* by Michael Finkel: "I can't believe I had never heard about these art thefts. It's the kind of story that would seem to be wildly unrealistic if it was written as fiction."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Honey Drop Dead* by Laura Childs: "Enjoyable addition to the series. But it ended with some loose ends."

A reader from Lancaster read *The Employees: A workplace novel of the 22nd century* by Olga Ravn: "I love memo- or letter-style books. I also love sci fi. As someone who deals with employees daily, seeing their genuine thoughts floating around via notes to each other was fascinating and kept me hooked. It's a slow burn that burns deep."

A reader from Woburn read *All The Dangerous Things* by Stacy Willingham: "This book surprised me with its twists and turns, which is always great and doesn't happen often for me!"

A reader from Woburn read *Sea Change* by Gina Chung: "I loved this heartbreaking book. I would read anything by this author in the future."

A reader from Belchertown read *The Six* by Loren Grush: "Enlightening story of the first six female astronauts in the US space program."

A reader from Hopedale read *Christmas Presents* by Lisa Unger: "Enjoyed this quick read that kept me guessing. Great book to end the year in a festive theme."

A reader from Worcester read *Making It So* by Sir Patrick Stewart: "Wonderful audiobook and highly recommend it for a long drive. Fascinating life story about growing up in England and making his way to his career in acting!"

A reader from Erving read *Holly* by Stephen King: "Loved it. So creepy especially since no 'supernatural' aspect!"

A reader from Cambridge read *The Postcard* by Anne Berest: "This is a novelization of the author's search for information about her family members killed by the Nazis--a family saga, a mystery, a tragedy. I wanted to love it, but it was a bit of a jumble and dragged for me."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Between Us* by Mhairi McFarlane: "Loved this one, as I have all McFarlane's books. She is just a master of dialogue and her newest just sparkles with wit and heart."

A reader from Fitchburg read *Gone Tonight* by Sarah Pekkanen: "Interesting twist in the story, its about a mother pretending to have the beginnings of alzheimers to shield her daughter from her past."

A reader from Braintree read *Carrie Soto is Back* by Taylor Jenkins Reid: "A great read with a dynamic perspective of getting older but always wanting to remain the GOAT of your sport."

A reader from West Yarmouth read *The Paleontologist* by Luke Dumas: "Chose this from the mystery section of bookstore and it was recommended as well. Started off with a lot about paleontology at first so wasn't sure I'd be able get through it but the author did a good at keeping it general for the reader to understand. A good mystery and enjoyed the story very much would recommend."

A reader from Belchertown read *Rough Sleepers: Dr. Jim O'Connell's urgent mission to bring healing to homeless people* by Tracy Kidder: "This book introduces Dr. Jim O'Connell to the reader. Dr. Jim is seeking something that will make a difference and the program he created indeed do that. The reader meets various Rough Sleepers (homeless) who sleep on the street through various New England weather and realizes the humanity behind the rough exterior of them as well as the need for such programs."

A reader from Halifax read *The Five Star Weekend* by Elin Hildebrandt: "I enjoyed the 'beach read,' but saw the twist early on."

A reader from Amherst read *Symphony of Secrets* by Brendan Slocumb: "A bittersweet story that sang to the honesty of the arts, and of race, and of race eithin the arts."

A reader from Fairhaven read *The Wager: a tale of shipwreck, mutiny, and murder* by Grann, David: "It's so well written that you feel like you are on this terrible journey along with the crew. Proof, once again, that money, pride, and arrogance are a horrible combination!"

A reader from Beverly read *Collected Regrets of Clover* by Mikki Brammer: "I really enjoyed this book! I had never heard of a death doula and found the book to be more uplifting than I would have expected."

A reader from Northborough read *The River We Rememeber* by William Kent Krueger: "Wonderful writing."

A reader from Saugus read *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett: "I really liked the story telling and the way the book flowed."

A reader from Lunenburg read *tom lake* by ann patchett: "Favorite book of 2023!!!"

A reader from Franklin read *The Beauty Trials* by Dhonielle Clayton: "Book 3 of the Belles series and a fantastic addition to the world. I thoroughly enjoyed this series and recommend it to others."

A reader from Worcester read *Y/N* by Esther Yi: "This book took me awhile because my mind kept drifting off, the surreal passages triggered reflection. I would recommend it to anyone struggling to find their muse."

A reader from Ipswich read *The last devil to die : Thursday murder club mystery* by Richard Osman: "The gang is back in book #4. The murder hits close to home when a friend of Stephen's is killed."

A reader from Sutton read *The Wager* by David Grann: "This book read like fiction. It was fast-paced and exciting."

A reader from Tewksbury read *How Far to the Promised Land* by Esau McCaulley: "I still have to process how I feel about this book. I admire the grace and perspective the author gives to his experiences and the people surrounding him in his formative years."

A reader from Tewksbury read *The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny and Murder* by David Grann: "It was very engaging, though the ending was a bit of a disappointment."

A reader from Belchertown read *The Golden Spoon* by Jessa Maxwell: "A baking contest on a manor estate in Vermont with murder and a mystery thrown in. I love The Great British Baking Show, so the concept appealed to me. A light but entertaining read."

A reader from ROCHESTER read *The Mindful Body* by Ellen J Langer: "Fascinating read on the mind/body connection and the power of uncertainty. Simply noticing things we never noticed before can make things more interesting and potentially more useful in new ways."

A reader from Santa Cruz read *Now You See Us* by Balli Kaur Jaswall: "Interesting stories of Filipina domestic workers who work for Singapore elites. They form an alliance to solve a murder of one of their own. Love the characters!"

A reader from Andover read *Defiance* by C.J. Cherryh and J.S. Fancher: "This is the latest wonderful installment of a science fiction series that combines politics, etiquette, emotions, and intrigue and makes them all feel fresh and new each time. This is a well-written series and a joy to read and await each new volume."

A reader from Wakefield read *Happy Place* by Emily Henry: "'Happy Place' was okay. Like Emily Henry's other books, everything ties up neatly at the end. There were sections that were repetitive making me think the book could have been half its length."

A reader from Reading read *The Bee Sting* by Paul Murray: "A very long book which takes a while to get going, but builds suspense towards the end."

A reader from Beverly read *Emily Wilde's Encyclopaedia of Faeries* by Heather Fawcett: "Loved!! This is academic fiction about fairies that feels like nonfiction. I'm already dying to read the sequel. Emily is a fantastic but unlikely heroine & Wendell is...there are no words! It's so funny while playing it straight."

A reader from Easthampton read *How to Sell a Haunted House* by Grady Hendrix: "Not a good choice for people who don't want to spend lots of time with creepy dolls."

A reader from Lunenburg read *The Drowning Woman* by Robyn Harding: "This book takes you on quite a ride. It's twisty and kept me on the edge of my seat, and I loved it."

A reader from Malden read *The Golden Spoon* by Jessa Maxwell: "Nice take on the great british bake off, though apparently she picked a town in vt that already exists and could easily host its own cozy murder mystery."

A reader from Swansea read *A Walk in the Woods* by Nikki Grimes: "In this picture book, Nikki Grimes tells the story of a dying father's gift to his grieving son, a walk in the woods, a gift they had shared. Brian Pinkney completed the artwork started by his father, Jerry Pinkney, before his passing in 2021. 'Dad knew I needed this walk in the woods.'"

A reader from Plymouth read *Flatlands* by Sue Hubbard: "A beautiful story of love set in one of my favorites places, a salt marsh. The way the marsh was described was just perfect."

A reader from Lynnfield read *The Luis Ortega Survival Club* by Sonora Reyes: "Great representations of race, disability, and sexuality are present in this story (that I describe as a combination of "John Tucker Must Die" and Laurie Halse Anderson's "Speak"), and everything that happened plot-wise was good. However, it could have been significantly better if the writing was more developed, detailed, and slower paced; due to this, it earned 3 stars from me."

A reader from Hampden read *the river we remember* by William Kent Krueger: "Great story, great characters. Didn't want it to end."

A reader from Hampden read *Crook Manifesto* by Colson Whitehead: "This is a follow to Whitehead's 'Harlem Shuffle' which was published in 2021. As much as I enjoyed 'Harlem Shuffle,' I like 'Crook Manifesto' somewhat more. The depiction of New York, especially Harlem, crackles with the City's tension. Ray Carney, the protagonist who is both good guy and criminal, is more engaging and more complicated. The humor is more pronounced and the overall stories are more energetic. Nevertheless, you'll enjoy 'Crook Manifesto' more if you read 'Harlem Shuffle' first."

A reader from Lowell read *Small Mercies* by Dennis Lehane: "I love every book I've written by Lehane. This novel captures the racial strife that Boston encountered during the seventies with the push to integrate the public school system. The characters are perfectly portrayed from all sides of the issue."

A reader from Sandwich read *Pageboy* by Elliot Page: "This book felt like coming home."

A reader from Sandwich read *The Little Liar* by Mitch Albom: "I thought it was an incredible book. Very well written and with a lot of history that brings the reader into the world of the characters during the Holocaust."

A reader from Bourne read *John Stamos If You Would Have Told Me A Memoir* by John Stamos: "Our local library offered us an author talk via zoom given by John Stamos. The call was interesting, so I decided to read the book. I liked the book. It was light, not a tell-all. I learned things that I didn't know about him. I loved his love of family."

A reader from Hartland read *The Best Minds* by Jonathan Rosen: "Well written with many citations. It develops the case that the bottom line is more important to providing care for the mentally ill than providing the necessary, labor intensive, continual interventions necessary to help the mentally ill."

A reader from Lowell read *Out There Screaming: An Anthology of New Black Horror* by Jordan Peele, Erin E. Adams, Violet Allen: "It was ok, I was hoping for more. I loved a few stories, and others were good but there were a few I felt were unfinished or just didn't make sense."

A reader from Leominster read *I have some questions for you* by Rebecca Makkai: "While I was reading it, I didn't really care for it. I found it to move slow and be a little dark, and not a fun way! I felt like the

characters were not well developed. But after I finished it, I have been thinking about it for days! So I guess that's the sign of a good book, anyway."

A reader from Amherst read *I have some questions for you* by Rebecca Makkai: "A tale of a failed reckoning in the microcosm of an elite boarding school in New England, this story navigates issues about race, collective memory, truth, and the misuse of justice both in the 90s and the present day's Me Too era. Framed by the hellish news cycle which victimizes and vilifies women at the same time, this novel constantly forces its reader to draw and redraw its own personal limits and definitions of consent, power, abuse, and violence."

A reader from Norton read *The Librarianist* by Patrick deWitt: "The main character is an introvert and retired librarianist. What to do with his life? The author has a way with words (quirky like his characters) that entertained and kept me reading."

A reader from WAKEFIELD read *Saturday Night at the Lakeside Supper Club* by J. Ryan Stradal: "A family saga based around a family business, interesting how the two intertwine. I also enjoyed 'Kitchens of the Greater Midwest,' Stradal's style is literary without being pretentious which makes for a fun, satisfying read."

A reader from Sagamore Beach read *These Infinite Threads* by Tahereh Mafi: "Published this year the second book in a trilogy. Fantasy fiction that includes magic a bit of romance and some interesting characters. Entertaining."

A reader from Medford read *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett: "Romance and reality collide."

A reader from Woburn read *Penance* by Eliza Clark: "I'm usually not a fan of books with unreliable narrators, but this one hooked me."

A reader from Falmouth read *Land of Milk and Honey* by C Pam Zhang: "Lyrical and strange. Unlike anything I've ever read."

A reader from Salem read *Down Here, We Come Up* by Sara J. Allen: "The author really created characters who felt real! I couldn't put this down, it was incredible."

A reader from Harwich read *Happy Place* by Emily Henry: "Lightweight beach read — pretty flimsy. The first 2023 book I had on reserve with Libby that became available."

A reader from Brewster read *The Adventures of Amina Al-Sirafi* by Shannon Chakraborty: "As a lover of pirates and a lover of fantasy, this book was everything I could've wanted it to be and more. I can't wait for book two!"

A reader from Franklin read *The Adventures of Amina al-Sirafi* by Shannon Chakraborty: "I loved this book! A great mix of fantasy and historical fiction in the ancient Islamic world. I really enjoyed reading a novel where the main character is a middle-aged woman; that is not something we often get. Gorgeous world-building and description and a badass pirate lady who defies the world's attempts to put her in any box. I also recommend this author's 'City of Brass' and will be reading the other books in that trilogy!"

A reader from Scituate read *The Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese: "Epic 20th century historical fiction. This is a thoroughly engrossing tale with compelling characters set in a fascinating locale."

A reader from Billerica read *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett: “Really enjoyed the back and forth of present day and past. Could relate to the main character telling her story but censoring parts that her children did not need to know.”

A reader from Concord read *The House at the End of the World* by Dean Koontz: “Weird book; even for Koontz; attempt at sci fi that seemed out of the norm for him.”

A reader from Beverly read *Iron Flame* by Rebecca Yarros: “Yarros continues to soar with *Iron Flame*, one of the most anticipated sequels of the year. There is some turbulence in some of the plotting and characterizations but overall it's a can't-put-down book that will eat away at your entire weekend because you will need to read one more chapter.”

A reader from CHICOPEE read *The Gift* by Freida McFadden: “This book had a very catchy and strong beginning and middle but I felt it ended very abruptly. It was a short story and it did keep my interest throughout but still the ending was not one of my favorites so I gave it 3 stars.”

A reader from Haverhill read *No One Can Know* by Kate Alice Marshall: “A solid murder mystery with lots of family secrets.”

A reader from Shutesbury read *Grand Tour* by Elisa Gonzales: “Beautiful.”

A reader from Brookline read *The Last Devil to Die* by Richard Osman: “Cozy little British mysteries with surprising earnestness and aches—this is what I come to Thursday Murder Club for and this installment didn't disappoint!”

A reader from East Bridgewater read *Beyond That, The Sea* by Laura Spence-Ash: “This was such a good book! It reminded me of *Hello, Beautiful* but with a New England setting.”

A reader from Worcester read *Hell Bent* by Leigh Bardugo: “This book was an absolutely wild ride, just like any book by Leigh Bardugo is. I love the grittiness of this crazy magic system she's cooked up.”

A reader from Springfield read *Famous in a Small Town* by Viola Shipman/ Wade Rouse: “The book is based the strong connection between the author and his grandmother. An old-fashioned tale of a small town where dreams come true. The main character, “Cherry Mary” became famous at the age of 15 because she spit out a cherry pit in a contest at a distance of 93 feet and 6 inches. She is at a crossroads and must decide who to leave her store to. Becky Thatcher decides to take vacation with her best friend and meets “Cherry Mary.” They form an inter-generational friendship. The theme is the strength of women.”

A reader from Lowell read *Fourth Wing* by Rebecca Yarros: “I TOTALLY UNDERSTAND THE HYPE! I thoroughly enjoyed this book and I'm very excited to read the next book in the series. A great balance between fantasy and romance. LOVE LOVE LOVE.”

A reader from SPRINGFIELD read *The Haunting of Alejandra* by V. Castro: “It is a chilling horror story about the dangerous weight that the patriarchy puts on women, and generational trauma allows men to keep women in prisons of their own making. Amazing use of the La Llorona myth.”

A reader from Methuen read *Spare* by Price Harry: “Eye opening and very moving.”

A reader from Melbourne read *Hello Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano: "Gorgeously written saga of a family of sisters. The author has captured the small and large dramas of female siblings, but mostly she has shown the undying love of sisters."

A reader from Beverly read *Walking with Sam: A Father, a Son, and Five Hundred Miles Across Spain* by Andrew McCarthy: "This book was right in line with what I've come to expect from Andrew McCarthy's travel writing. It's a great mix of his own introspection and empathetic look at others, alongside the travel of the present with a view of the action happening as well as some history of the area as he has learned it."

A reader from MARSTONS MILLS read *How to Sell A Haunted House* by Grady Hendrix: "I found this book creepy and couldn't put it down!"

A reader from Longmeadow read *The Paris daughter* by Kristin Harmel: "I was so incredibly moved by this book and the way the plot develops. It was heart-wrenching to read about the plight of these women who suffer for years first during the war and then and then for the loss of their children."

A reader from SOUTH YARMOUTH read *Yellowface* by R F Kuang: "Wow! Lots of current issues addressed in this book! Ethics in publishing, friendship, anxiety, plagiarism, racism, appropriation, depression, social media, ... You don't come away from reading this book without strong feelings about the characters and the issues."

A reader from Salem read *Blackgirl on Mars* by Lesley-Ann Brown: "A really good and reflective book! Lesley-Ann's writing is very easy to read and she's very good at making her points and talking about her life."

A reader from northampton read *yellowface* by kuang, rf: "Story about fighting, ghost, publishing. About WW1 and chinese seriously a lot of action in the beginning and the end. it kept you wanted to know who was going to do the next situations."

A reader from Northfield read *spare* by prince harry: "i thoroughly enjoyed this book. I was never really into the royal family, but i did love princess Diana. She just seemed like over a beautiful person. I cannot imagine what those children had to endure. i think this book was a great insight in what a life famous children had to live."

A reader from Fitchburg read *The Surgeon* by Leslie Wolfe: "I found this book to be somewhat slow and boring. The characters didn't have much dimension."

A reader from Rochester read *The wager* by David grann: "A little disappointed in this book expected more from a 2023 book of the year."

A reader from Marlborough read *Light in Bandaged Places* by Liz Kinchen: "Vulnerable, true tale of how our childhood can shape our adult relationships. I appreciate the candidacy of this memoir & was able to see myself in some of her writings."

A reader from Hanover read *The Beginning of Everything* by Jackie Fraser: "Nice to see a romance featuring an older couple - both in their mid-forties."

A reader from Amherst read *Meeting Millie* by Clare Ashton: "A Sapphic romance set in Oxford England. Complex and charming characters. Lush and humorous writing."

A reader from Franklin read *My Murder* by Katie Williams: "Quick read with a clever concept for a murder mystery."

A reader from Hopedale read *The White Lady* by Jacqueline Winspear: "The book introduces a new character, Elinor DeWitt, who served during two world wars and is now living in a 'grace and favor' house as thanks from the government for her service. I enjoyed the book but did not care for the chapters jumping back and forth in time. I also read all of Winspear's 'Maisie Dobbs' series."

A reader from Northampton read *The Road to Dalton* by Shannon Bowring: "A beautifully written story set in small town rural Maine, 1989-1990. Sadness, loss, secrets and thankfully countering that, so very much love, so much caring, from family and community and so very much goodness. This is NOT a soppy story - this is a tender understanding of life in all its complexity."

A reader from East Falmouth read *Making It So: A Memoir* by Patrick Stewart: "As a Star Trek fan and fan of the actor in other roles, I found the book interesting. He is as eloquent in his writing as he is when speaking the works of famous authors and playwrights."

A reader from Amherst read *The peoples tongue: Americans and thee English language* by Ilan Stavans: "Very interesting interesting book about English in America for many points of view."

A reader from Boston read *American Whitelash: A Changing Nation and the cost of progress* by Wesley Lowery: "Pretty compelling. However, at this point I think I've read enough books on the harm posed by white supremacists and the growing movement in our country and should read about new topics now. However, the fact that after all this there are still stories I didn't know about (Including one that happened in Springfield MA when I was 16) just shows how pervasive this problem is."

A reader from West barnstable read *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett: "Really enjoyed the way Patchett revealed Laura's /Lara's history through her conversations with her daughters while harvesting cherries during the pandemic. Patchett never disappoints."

A reader from Belchertown read *Yellowface* by RF Kuang: "LOVED this one! A great read to finish out the year of challenges."

A reader from Thorndike read *You Could Make This Place Beautiful* by Maggie Smith: "Beautiful, emotional, thoughtful. Love the format."

A reader from Hanson read *Never Give UP* by Tom Brokaw: "It's a personal story a NBC news anchor that many in my generation watched faithfully. The values and work ethnics that were born from living in a harsh area of the US."

A reader from Stoneham read *The Detective Up Late* by Adrian McKinty: "Good characters and setting. Would be fitting end to series."

A reader from Stoneham read *The Proof of the Pudding* by Rhys Bowen: "I have enjoyed this series of light mysteries, so I was looking forward to the release of this book in November. This was as much fun as the others."

A reader from Shelburne Falls read *Pageboy* by Elliot Page: "Reading Elliot Page's memoir, unlike watching his beloved performances onscreen, helped me distance him from a famous face and dive into his deeper self-expression."

A reader from Oakham read *The Best Minds: A Story of Friendship, Madness, and the Tragedy of Good Intentions* by Jonathan Rosen: "A gripping account of a bright, charismatic young man, who had it all-- then the world came crashing down with a diagnosis of schizophrenia, and paranoid delusions drove him to horrific violence. This book affected me strongly--not only because I knew the author and his subject as children, but because it delves so deeply into the hearts of all the people involved, and challenges us with morally complex questions. Behind the lurid headlines is a healthcare system that is failing people with mental illness."

A reader from WAKEFIELD read *All That is Mine I Carry With Me* by William Landay: "Great story with some twists and turns."

A reader from Wakefield read *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett: "I was hooked on page 1 and loved the book and every character in it."

A reader from Irvine CA read *Enough* by Cassidy Hutchinson: "Cassidy Hutchinson had enough of the West Wing lies and tells the story of what really happened at the end of the trump administration. Recommended."

A reader from Plymouth read *Happy Place* by Emily Henry: "I thought this book was going to be about a romantic getaway in Maine but instead it was a beautiful story about endings, new beginnings, mental health, and platonic love. Emily Henry never fails to make me fall in love with her characters."

A reader from Plainville read *Cassandra in Reverse* by Holly Smale: "I didn't love this book, I found it hard to get into. But it had a happy ending, which I liked."

A reader from Rockland read *The Spy Coast* by Tess Gerritsen: "A new series by the Rizzoli & Iles author filled with fun, interesting characters, Former spies collaborate to solve new and old murders."

A reader from Salem read *Tsubaki-chou Lonely Planet Vol. 3* by Mika Yamamori: "I enjoyed reading the fan translations of this manga series when it was first published in Japanese several years ago, but I was thrilled when it was finally officially published in English for the first time this year! It's a very sweet story with wonderful art and the characters are so human and loveable. Very much looking forward to future volumes!"

A reader from Hanover read *The Missing Morningstar: And Other Stories* by Stacie Shannon Denetsosie: "The stories are pretty sad. But I learned so much about Indigenous culture and every day life from this book."

A reader from Boston read *Spare* by Prince Harry: "Always a Royal Watcher so it was interesting to read a book about them by a Royal, rather than 'sources close to...'"

A reader from Newton read *Everything's Fine* by Cecelia Rabess: "Very interesting. A romance story that also revolves around race issues in the workplace, relationships, and in general."

A reader from Greenfield read *Exiles* by Jane Harper: "A satisfying third (and last?) book in the Aaron Falk mystery series. This time it's the south Australian wine country that's the extra character in this richly drawn story that isn't as thrilling as the previous two, but still wonderfully written."

A reader from Marblehead read *The People's Hospital* by Ricard Nuila: "This was a very good book reflecting on the American healthcare system. It did accurately point out a number of problems with our

system--but all of them basically all boil down to money. He proposes a simpler system like those in other countries. However, there is no suggestion on how we can continue to advance our treatment of diseases and other issues if money doesn't provide an incentive for those developments. I do also find it ironic how physicians, hospital executives, nurses, insurance providers, pharmaceutical companies, etc always complain about these high costs, but NEVER admit that they are paid too much."

A reader from Basking Ridge read *Love Interest* by Clare Gilmore: "Enemies to lovers is my jam, forever and always."

A reader from Dracut read *Nineteen Steps* by Millie Bobby Brown: "Although I enjoyed the historical aspects of the book, it was too much of a romance novel for my taste."

A reader from Dracut read *Nineteen Steps* by Millie Bobby Brown: "I had never heard this story about the steps in London and so was intrigued by this book. Great read."

A reader from Reading read *Flags on the Bayou* by James Lee Burke: "My first by this author. Gripping tale but tough ...the inhumanity of the slave trade and the civil war was soul crushing, fortunately he gives a little hope for humanity at the end."

A reader from Dracut read *Legends of Little Canada* by Charlie Gargiulo: "I enjoyed this memoir about the place where my Grandparents raised my father and his siblings. Reading this brought back memories of family stories."

A reader from Lee read *Family Lore* by Elizabeth Acevedo: "This had too many POVs and not enough plot for my personal taste."

A reader from Wilmington read *The Puppets of Spelhorst* by Kate DiCamillo: "I like how all the puppets are friends. I love how they all end up together in the end."

A reader from Braintree read *Bookshops and Bonedust* by Travis Baldree: "This was a great cozy fantasy book prequel."

A reader from Melrose read *Scent of a Garden* by Namrata Patel: "This author is my friend (wow, right?!) and I read her new book to round out the year. It's a light read with a nice romance and great settings."

A reader from Somerville read *The Guest* by Emma Cline: "Whoa. Couldn't put this book down. Draws you right in and unfolds in such a perfectly paced and steady way. Cline is an excellent writer and I would read another book by her in a heartbeat."

A reader from Fall River read *Juniper's Christmas* by Eoin Colfer: "A magical and cozy Christmas story for all ages! :)"

A reader from Hopkinton read *Will to Wild* by Shelby Stanger: "An advice/memoir book focused on the importance of exploring in nature, getting out of your comfort zone and also remembering that adventure - and life itself - are about the journey more than the destination."

A reader from Northampton read *Fourth Wing* by Rebecca Yarros: "I did not want to put down the book and is a great mix of romance, drama, and action!"

A reader from Seekonk read *Murder Wears a Hidden Face* by Rosemary Simpson: "I greatly enjoyed this book which was the 8th in the series taking place in the Gilded Age in New York. Most of the books takes

place in Chinatown providing fascinating information about the lives of Chinese who came to this country during the times the Chinese Exclusion Act was in effect.”

A reader from Sunderland read *The Librarianist* by Patrick deWitt: “It was sort of quirky and fun, but not my favorite of the twelve entries I submitted this year.”

A reader from Worcester read *The First Ladies* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray: “This book was about the friendship between Eleanor Roosevelt and Marie McLeod Bethune, a civil rights activist. The friendship helped start the civil rights movement. I found the book so interesting as I didn't know much about that time in history. Enjoyed learning about both women's lives.”

A reader from Salem read *White Cat, Black Dog: Stories* by Kelly Link: “A very unique read, the stories in this book basically retell or recreate classic fairy tales or well-known stories but through a modern backdrop and with very strange/imaginative characters and incidents. Fantasy is not a genre I typically enjoy or can get into, but I appreciated the author's attempts for magical, grandiose and bizarre stories. I would however definitely read this book as my least favorite of the 2023 reading challenge as it felt far more like YA fiction which is not something I would typically pick out or enjoy.”

A reader from Franklin read *Oath and Honor* by Liz Cheney: “Well written. Brings back the horrors of late 2020 and 2021. While I may not agree with Cheney on issues, I admire her courage and fidelity to the Constitution.”

A reader from Woburn read *One of Us is Back* by Karen McManus: “My December read was the final book in Karen McManus' *One of Us* series. I really loved this series on a whole, and book three did not disappoint. I am going to miss the Bayview Four.”

A reader from Swansea read *Iron Flame* by Rebecca Yarros: “I enjoyed this but it could have been better with a bit more world building. I feel like so much of the world and its politics are not explained, so we miss out on how big the conflicts really are.”

A reader from Somerset read *Last Night at the Telegraph Club* by Malinda Lo: “I really enjoyed this coming-of-age novel. It was a well-researched and interesting perspective of a young woman in 1950s San Francisco discovering her sexual identity.”

A reader from Abington read *The Other Renaissance* by Paul Strathern: “Interesting read about Renaissance achievements north of the Alps in the Netherlands, France, Germany, etc. vs. Italy. Ended up feeling like somewhat of a compilation of biographies of Gutenberg, Copernicus, Van Eyck, Erasmus, etc. rather than a comprehensive or chronological account of overall development. Not sure that I'd recommend.”

A reader from Wakefield read *Emily Wilde's Encyclopaedia of Faeries* by Heather Fawcett: “Heather Fawcett is a good writer -- the world-setting in this fantasy novel was very vivid, and the book was mindlessly charming in a good way. Not sure I'd read the sequel that is coming, but it was a nice escape for a while.”

A reader from Wakefield read *The Vaster Wilds* by Lauren Groff: “This was like *The Bear* by Andrew Krivak, just set in the 1600s rather than in a dystopian future, but the main event was the same--young girl survives on her own in the wild. This girl had a more traumatic backstory, which the reader doesn't discover all of until close to the end. Would I recommend? No -- pretty depressing, and not particularly believable.”

A reader from Sandwich read *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett: "It was good."

A reader from Florence read *Astor: The Rise and Fall of an American Fortune* by Anderson Cooper and Katherine Howe: "I was really excited to read this because I so enjoyed the Vanderbilt book by the same authors but this was disappointing. They go off on tangents that are too long and repetitious. I would like to thank the Reading Challenge for the great end of the year party in Northampton. This was one of the books that I won! Thanks again and see you next year!"

A reader from Amherst read *Vera Wong's unsolicited advice for murderers* by Jesse Q. Sutanto: "A twist on the whodunnit genre with an unexpected detective. It was a fast read and enjoyable."

A reader from Tewksbury read *Emily Wilde's Encyclopedia of Fairies* by Heather Fawcett: "An enchanting story of mythology, folklore, and faerie Kings. The whimsical fantasy of snow sparkles and magic is a light and enjoyable read."

A reader from Newton read *Iron Flame* by Rebecca Yarros: "A slower start than *Fourth Wing*, but around page 270 it REALLY picked up!!!"

A reader from Marblehead read *All Things are Born to Change Their Shapes* by Jennifer Martelli: "Well, it's my chapbook. Look at that cover!"

A reader from Westborough read *The Last Remains* by Elly Griffiths: "The last book of the series. Very bittersweet. I will miss the world that was created. And, the book was good too. Nice ending for all the characters."

A reader from Methuen read *The Mystery Guest* by Nita Prose: "I couldn't put this book down. A fantastic who done it with a lovable main character."

A reader from Enfield read *The Quiet Tenant* by Clémence Michallon: "I did not like this book. The majority of the book was written in 2nd person and I didn't think it added anything to the story. I couldn't connect to the characters."

A reader from Scituate read *Fourth wing* by Rebecca yarros: "Predictable and cliché. I'm going to finish it bc I'm still hoping it will turn around, and there have been some slightly interesting surprises, but this reads more like fanfic than a NYT best selling author."

A reader from Gill read *A House with Good Bones* by T. Kingfisher: "A quick, fun fantasy. A malevolent horror haunting a family."

A reader from Whately read *Scorched Grace* by Margot Douaihy: "Scorched Grace takes place at a Catholic school in New Orleans. When the school becomes the target of arson, Sister Holiday is determined to solve the crime. I enjoyed this book and look forward to Margot Douaihy's next book."

A reader from Wrentham read *True Biz* by Sara Novic: "Excellent depiction of teenage quest for autonomy entwined with the deaf community's tension between sign and cochlear implants. Adult depicts are peripheral with portrayals representing the family tensions in partner relationships."

A reader from East Taunton read *The Weaver and the Witch Queen* by Genevieve Gornichec: "Compelling story of transformation and triumph."

A reader from Amherst read *The Christmas Guest* by Peter Swanson: "Fun, quick read for the holiday season. Would be nice as a Christmas Eve or Christmas Day book; easily finished in two hours or so."

A reader from Reading read *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride: "So well written. All the characters felt real. Really felt the trials of that era."

A reader from Quincy read *Ghosts of the Orphanage* by Christine Keneally: "Ghosts of the Orphanage was hard to read, because I disliked it, but because of its content. It was a poignant, informative look at orphanages (particularly St. Joseph's in Vermont) and what happens too often behind locked doors."

A reader from Hatfield read *Eve* by Cat Bohannon: "The most fascinating book of the year!!!!"

A reader from Attleboro read *Life in Five Senses* by Gretchen Rubin: "Interesting observations about how we take our senses for granted and some great ideas for ways to stimulate and reacquaint ourselves with our senses."

A reader from middleboro read *Holly* by Stephen King: "Holly is now owner of finders keepers investigation agency and is in trouble. luckily she has friends that are by her side. This is a must read. Holly is great."

A reader from middleboro read *holly* by stephen king: "holly now owns finders keepers investigation agency. She is on a case that turns out to be life or death, for her. stephen king keeps you thinking page after page. love this book"

A reader from Wilmington read *Georgie All Along* by Kate Clayborn: "Very light, comforting story about a girl returning home and falling in love. It was simple, but exactly what I needed at this time of year."

A reader from Hanson read *Spare* by Prince Harry: "How could I not listen to this book? It was great narrated by Harry. Definitely is one side of the story but certainly eye opening to hear about being a Royal and its challenges."

A reader from Dennis Port read *Sisters of the Lost Nation* by Nick Medina: "I didn't want to read this book about missing Indigenous women and girls but I was so drawn to it and luckily the author's use of moving forward and back in time kept me turning pages - that and the growing strength and drive of the main character, Anna. The author's note at the end encourages acknowledgement of this plague of indifference concerning abused/missing/murdered Indigenous women and girls and offers sources for activism."

A reader from Attleboro read *Yellowface* by R.F. Kuang: "A book inherently mind-bending and frustrating, *Yellowface* tackles the issue of racism within publishing and challenges the reader to question who is telling whose story. It was a strange experience being so drawn into a book where a protagonist seemingly lacks a lot of morals - 4.5 stars."

A reader from Stanford read *The Blueberry Pickers* by Amanda Peters: "I enjoyed reading about places I'm familiar with, Maine, Nova Scotia. It was interesting to learn about the Indian tribe that left Nova Scotia to pick blueberries in Maine for the summer. All the above interwoven in the story of a missing child. It is worth reading."

A reader from Salem read *History of New England* by Picasso: "Nice book. Some history information was changed and reprinted..."

A reader from Bolton read *Meet Me at the Lake* by Carley Fortune: "A light hearted romance set in Canada. Chick-lit."

A reader from Dracut read *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters: "The book was very good, as were the readers, which can make all the difference in the world for an audio book. The story was well-developed and kept the reader engaged."

A reader from Beverly read *The First Ladies* by Marie Benedict: "Very interesting story of two powerful women from very different backgrounds."

A reader from Beverly read *The Christmas Appeal* by Janice Hallett: "It was fun to read an epistolary and the characters were fun to read about if a little under-baked! I think the mystery could've unfolded a little sooner but I enjoyed the Christmas theme and community theatre setting."

A reader from Plainville read *You, Again* by Kate Goldbeck: "This was a cute rom-com book published in 2023. This book was a fun read and had me rooting for the characters throughout the book!"

A reader from Middleboro read *A December to Remember* by Jenny Bayliss: "A very cute book that will get you in the winter spirit!"

A reader from North Reading read *The Collectors: Stories* by M. T. Anderson, e.E. Charlton-Trujillo, A.S. King, David Levithan, Cory McCarthy, Anna-Marie McLemore, G. Neri, Jason Reynolds, Randy Ribay and Jenny Torres Sanchez Edited by A.S. King: "This collection of stories didn't hold my attention well the entire time. G. Neri's piece about 1970s skateboarders was a relatable and edgy read that made this book worthwhile. You knew exactly who the characters were. 3/5 stars."

A reader from Amherst read *Hello Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano: "I enjoyed this book. It is only loosely a retelling of *Little Women*. It is about sisters but from a completely different time and place. The author did a good job of conveying the complex relationships between members of a large family."

A reader from Rochester read *Wager* by Granny, david: "Such hardship men had to undergo for their 'country.'"

A reader from Hudson read *The Museum of Failures: A Novel* by Thrity Umrigar: "What I liked most about this book is the relationship between Remy and his mother and how culture plays a role in their conflict and ultimate forgiveness. It also brings to light what families must face when bringing up a child with special needs and how decisions on care affect every member of the family. Another great novel from Thrity Umrigar!"

A reader from Amesbury read *The Housemaid's Secret* by Freida McFadden: "Suspenseful, lots of plot twists. Was a quick read because I couldn't put it down."

A reader from Northfield read *The Quiet Tenant* by Clemence Michallon: "This was a disturbing story. Aidan Thomas is a normal working man with a family. He is also a serial killer. He keeps one of his victims, who is still alive, in his shed. Meanwhile, he is out courting his next victim."

A reader from Danville read *From the Grave* by Kresley Cole: "Kresley Cole's conclusion to the *Arcane Chronicles* had a lot of potential however it seemed like the ending was rushed and non-committal to her characters. It felt like the author was 'over it' by the end of the story. I did appreciate the use of the

tarot cards to signify each player, the powers that they embodied, and the depth of some of the characters, but the main character was unlikable and selfish throughout the series so I'm glad it's over."

A reader from Hampden read *Sidonia's Seam Binding* by Hanna Perlstein Marcus: "This is the third book in her trilogy about her mother's story escaping concentration camps in the Holocaust. It was excellent! The author is coming to our library in March to do an author talk."

A reader from Rochester read *A Most Agreeable Murder* by Julia Seales: "This was a fun historical mystery full of red herrings, tongue in cheek humor, and a feisty heroine. I really enjoyed it."

A reader from East Sandwich read *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles: "Change in plans!"

A reader from Uxbridge read *Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by McBride: "Even though chapters circulated amongst several characters, they were so memorable as to be easy to keep track of - cared about the characters. I enjoyed the 'just' ending for one of them! Loved reading about people trying to do the right thing! Loved this book! Thank you Mr. McBride"

A reader from Melrose read *None of This is True* by Lisa Jewell: "What a wild ride! I had to read this quickly because if I wasn't reading it I couldn't think about anything else. Plot was a little over-dramatic, but unfolded like a car accident - I couldn't look away!"

A reader from Beverly read *Democracy Awakening Notes on the State of America* by Heather Cox Richardson: "Love her Letters from an American. Such insight into how we got to where we are today. As a history professor at Boston College, she provides such in-depth background. I learned so much about the history of the founding of our country and all of the progression."

A reader from Plymouth read *Lady Tan's Circle of Women* by Lisa See: "This book draws the reader into 16th century China, from the point of view of a young woman who has the talent to be a physician but is not allowed to pursue that field because she is a woman."

A reader from Sandwich read *None of This is True* by Lisa Jewell: "Devoured every second of this book - it expertly dangles the truth right in front of you before snatching it away and leaving you guessing."

A reader from Sandwich read *The Little Liar* by Mitch Albom: "An amazing Holocaust story, told as heart-wrenching and heart warming as only Mitch Albom can."

A reader from Boston read *The Lioness of Boston* by Emily Franklin: "A very interesting look at a woman who was ahead of her times."

A reader from Weymouth read *Sisters of the Lost Marsh* by Lucy Strange: "A story for middle school age kids but interesting for adults too. Their father believes in a curse that would determine each girl's role in life while their beloved grandmother encourages their individual strengths and spirit."

A reader from Woods Hole read *First Ladies* by Marie Benedict: "A wonderful look at cooperation between Eleanor Roosevelt and Mary, the mover and shaker of black community voting. Eye opening and certainly not written about in main stream books. Well done and well researched."

A reader from Monson read *The god of endings* by Jacqueline Holland: "This gave me Addie LaRue vibes but vampires. I enjoyed the split time-lines, and the different take on the vampire lore--I wished we got to see more of that. This book is very character driven, while the plot slowly plods along. And while the

book is pretty hefty, I wouldn't have minded if we got even more. The ending isn't climatic, but it wasn't boring either."

A reader from Wakefield read *Choosing to Run* by Des Linden: "I loved learning about the life of a professional runner. Also, this book was like a love letter to the Boston Marathon, which I am very fond of, so that made me love it even more."

A reader from Danvers read *A shadow In Moscow* by Katherine Keay: "Very interesting characters. Well written."

A reader from Scituate read *Hearts of Darkness* by Jana Monroe: "Very interesting memoir of one of the first female FBI analysts. Jana Monroe consulted on more than 850 homicide cases as an agent in the FBI Behavioral Science Unit. She helped train Jodie Foster for her role in *Silence of the Lambs*."

A reader from Wrentham read *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride: "I loved how he brought every single character to life, whether major or minor."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Going Infinite* by Michael Lewis: "This book was informative in teaching me more about crypto-exchanges. It focuses on Sam Bankman-Fried, who is now facing charges on fraud that could lead to life imprisonment. The book paints a sad picture of a strange, but brilliant, individual who has difficulty with normal human interactions."

A reader from Essex read *Happy Place* by Emily Henry: "Her books are always fun and easy to read. Perfect book for a busy time of year!"

A reader from Fitchburg read *Spare* by Prince Harry: "This book was quite eye opening and it really held my attention the whole way through. I would recommend this book to anyone who wants an insider's view of the royal family."

A reader from Westminster read *Spare* by Prince Harry: "I really enjoyed this book about Prince Harry. I really learned a lot about the workings of the royal family and even felt sorry for poor little rich boy, Prince Harry. It makes you really wonder about that whole tradition of royalty in the United Kingdom."

A reader from Florence read *Accidental Garden* by Catherine Prescott Esposito: "This book of poems is steeped in pandemic and illness but also full of prayer and possibility. The pieces are a record of not only survival but also celebration."

A reader from Melrose read *Yellowface* by R.F. Kuang: "This book was so informative, giving perspectives on racism, plagiarism, the publishing industry, and the powerful impact of social media. The author describes the process one goes through to get a book published., very interesting. The story grabs your interest in the 1st chapter with an unexpected happening. I found this book so relevant in this day of AI."

A reader from Salem read *A True Account Hannah Masury's Sojourn Amongst the Pyrates, Written by Herself* by Katherine Howe: "Loved the local connection and dual timelines!!"

A reader from Enfield read *Helen House* by Kayla Kumari Upadhyaya: "This story dealt with the tangible effects of grief and how people grieve in many ways, some that can be harmful to others. I was a bit worried it would go the way of *Get Out* and honestly, yknow, I wasn't totally wrong. Still a great read."

A reader from Beverly read *Iron Flame* by Rebecca Yarros: "Was a decent sequel to the first novel. I am curious as to how things will unfold going forward in future books."

A reader from Hudson read *The Autists* by Clara Tornvall: "The author writes about autism from the perspective of a woman who was diagnosed with autism only when she was well into adulthood. She examines the various life issues that women autists must deal with, and (in what I found the most interesting sections) discusses a number of well-known women writers (Emily Dickinson, Patricia Highsmith, Simone Weil) who fit the profile of autists."

A reader from Leverett read *Sea Change* by Gina Chung: "I love the textured depiction of contemporary Asian American characters. The author is masterful in weaving the aquatic theme through all the complex relationships."

A reader from Monson read *River, Sing Me Home* by Eleanor Shearer: "This is the story of Rachel whose children were taken from her in the aftermath of slavery in the Caribbean, specifically in Barbados, Georgetown, (British Guiana) and Trinidad. She found them all through her determination and desperation in reuniting with the children stripped from her and went to extraordinary lengths to find her beloved ones and the freedom she so deserved and sought. It's a story of hope guided by deep love. I enjoyed reading about the slavery issues which are not in the USA."

A reader from SCITUATE read *Where Are The Children Now* by Mary Higgins Clark & Alafair Burke: "Great sequence book to original *Where are the Children*, published in 2000. Enjoyed hearing how these young people matured in life. Highly Recommend."

A reader from Baldwinville read *The Vaster Wilds* by Lauren Groff: "A beautiful book about what happens to the mind and spirit under extreme physical and mental duress."

A reader from Haverhill read *Atalanta* by Jennifer Saint: "I really enjoyed this retelling. I was not familiar with the original myth, but this was so captivating."

A reader from Auburn read *Hang the Moon* by Jeanette Wells: "This book set in the Roaring 20's is crisp, imaginative and compelling. Her protagonist is just as mired in her wealthy surroundings as are the poverty-stricken women across the tracks. It was very clever to incorporate American historical events with King Henry VIII and his family."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Zero Days* by Ruth Ware: "Great suspense and mystery in one store. Fast paced, hard to put down!"

A reader from Brookline read *Warming Up Julia Child* by Helen Lefkowitz Horowitz: "My favorite book I read all year. I have always idolized Julia Child and reading this biography of her and the six people who supported her career was truly inspirational. The author masterfully mixed reporting with story in a really enjoyable way."

A reader from Middleboro read *The Homecoming* by Kate Morton: "I liked the book- I never guessed the ending which is rare for me. The characters were fleshed out and it really felt like I knew them. Going back and forth between past and present wasn't confusing and added depth to the story."

A reader from Reading read *Fourth Wing* by Rebecca Yarros: "I loved this book. Her writing style is fun and the story was so captivating I had trouble putting it down."

A reader from Marblehead read *Pineapple Street* by Jenny Jackson: "Fun, easy read."

A reader from Lynnfield read *The Queen of Dirt Island* by Donal Ryan: "I really enjoyed reading this novel. Each chapter is only two pages long so it's very punchy and the story moves along briskly. Really good characters and themes of loneliness, family, femininity, and masculinity among others. Highly recommend."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Enough* by Cassidy Hutchinson: "This was a fascinating behind-the-scenes look at Ms. Hutchinson's experiences, from her arrival in DC through her testimony in front of the January 6 committee. It prompted me to also read Bob Woodward's *The Last of the President's Men*, since there were parallels between her and Nixon aide Alex Butterfield."

A reader from New Bedford read *The Weaver and the Witch Queen* by Genevieve Gornichec: "Well written historical fantasy based on Nordic lore. At time I felt it a little repetitive but well worth the read. I also recommend *The Witch's Heart* - the first novel by this author."

A reader from N Weymouth read *Spare* by Prince Harry: "I enjoyed this well-written book. I thought the author was honest, open, and sincere about the negatives and positives of his life."

A reader from East Falmouth read *How to Know A Person* by David Brooks: "I enjoyed the book, thinking about your conversation skills."

A reader from Belchertown read *Bright Lights Big Christmas* by Mary Kay Andrews: "A delightful book full of Christmas spirit."

A reader from Boston/ Yarmouth read *The Secret to Happiness* by Suzanne Woods Fisher: "This is a sweet, charming, light read celebrating finding happiness through self- reflection, gratitude and positive thinking. Fun!"

A reader from Marriottsville read *Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese: "Beautiful saga over three generations of an Indian Christian family taking place in southwestern India. Beautiful almost poetic writing depicting tragedy, hope, and resilience of human beings and their interactions with others. The surprise ending for me of the beautiful mother disappearing because she knew she had leprosy was so well described. And as in his previous novel, Verghese brings in the element of finding and forgiveness and love that we hope families can resolve."

A reader from Forestdale read *Divine Rivals* by Rebecca Ross: "Book 1...I loved the story and characters. Very well written fantasy fiction."

A reader from WORCESTER read *ONLY THE BEAUTIFUL* by SUSAN MEISSNER: "I am a big fan of author Susan Meissner, and this book is another wonderful example of her brilliant work. The story is heartbreaking, but it also has moments of such heartwarming actions by the characters."

A reader from Indian Orchard read *Raw Dog: The Naked Truth About Hot Dogs* by Jamie Loftus: "I adore Jamie Loftus, absolutely love her comedy and everything she does! This was a masterpiece."

A reader from Worcester read *How to Sell a Haunted House* by Grady Hendrix: "Super creepy and unsettling. I'll never look at puppets the same way. That said, extremely well-written and paced!"

A reader from YARMOUTH PORT read *The heaven and earth grocery store* by James McBride: "James McBride is one of my favorite authors. This book manages to highlight relationships on many levels. It is a good story and well written."

A reader from YARMOUTH PORT read *The Heaven and earth grocery store* by James McBride: "James McBride is one of my favorite authors. He can cover sensitive topics like race in a very clever way."

A reader from Sandwich read *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett: "This book was beautifully written with some surprising twists and turns."

A reader from Three Rivers read *Happy Place* by Emily Henry: "Romance novels are my favorite and this one was a cute story."

A reader from Greenfield read *Hell Bent* by Leigh Bardugo: "A darkly magical tapestry is woven through the streets of New Haven as we join Alex in solving her latest mystery while trying to save her friends."

A reader from Worcester read *A Feast of Losses* by Judith Ferrara: "Very well done. Ferrara didn't glorify Kunitz. Ferrara gave Yetta, Stanley Kunitz's mother, a much needed voice. We can truly have compassion for Yetta beyond her son's maligned poems."

A reader from Lowell read *Everyone Here Is Lying* by Shari Lapena: "Full of twists and turns, wasn't sure how it would end!"

A reader from Beverly read *Ripe* by James Hider: "Sci-fi book with an interesting premise - alien AI "planted" the seeds of humanity in an attempt to replace the extinct species that created the AI itself. Now, the alien ships are back to harvest their crop. Fun story until the end, where the author seemed to just write a bunch of nonsense to get it over with."

A reader from Hampden read *Circle of Death* by James Patterson and Brian Sitts: "Different Patterson writing set in the future. The shadow is solving a murder mystery at the World's Fair."

A reader from Springfield read *Graceland* by Nancy C.: "This year I am participating in the #massbookreadingchallenge. To conclude this fun year of reading, December's challenge/books is a book written/published in 2023 from a bookseller. I have been a little obsessed with Elvis's story lately and when I saw this book at the library, I had to read it. I enjoyed the story leading up to Graceland. Fun, easy read to end the year."

A reader from Hanson read *You Shouldn't have come Here* by Jeneva Rose: "I really enjoy this author and love the twists in the book. This book was a good read and kept me engaged the entire time."

A reader from Hudson read *zero days* by Ruth Ware: "Very suspenseful and engrossing book performed by wonderful Imogen Church. I recommend the audio because of Church although the cd segments are too long if using a cd player."

A reader from Amherst read *Up With the Sun* by Thomas Mallon: "Although fictionalized, many actual celebrities are included, and there is much name dropping. The most compelling story line is the AID's epidemic."

A reader from Somerville read *The Palestine Laboratory: How Israel Exports the Technology of Occupation Around the World* by Antony Loewenstein: "'Occupied Palestinians were talked about and

not heard. A 2020 study by the University of Arizona's Maha Nasser laid bare this silencing. Palestinians wrote less than 2 percent of the opinion pieces in the NYT between 1970 and 2020. It was 1 percent in the Washington Post [...] Israel's harsh treatment of Palestinians and state-backed racial profiling has made it extremely popular even with groups who traditionally loathe Jews' From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free."

A reader from Salem read *With love, from Cold World* by Alicia Thompson: "I was looking for an escapist romance with a contemporary edge. The setting was delightful: a winter theme park in Florida!"

A reader from Belchertown read *The lost bookshop* by Evie woods: "Loved jt!!"

A reader from Lynn read *The Voice Upstairs* by Laura E Weymouth: "This was a creepy book involving ghosts, and a twist ending. The twist you kind of see coming, but at the same time you don't if that makes sense."

A reader from Amesbury read *Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Murderers* by Jesse Q Sutanto: "Entertaining cast of characters. An interesting mystery and a story of found family."

A reader from Plainville read *Wellness* by Nathan Hill: "One of my favorites of the year!"

A reader from Dracut read *Fish On!* by Wayne Stinnett: "Jesse McDermott saves the day again!"

A reader from Amherst read *Dirty Thirty* by Janet Evonovich: "Always fun and laughs with this series."

A reader from Attleboro read *All sinners bleed* by S.A.Cosby: "It was a very compelling story about a sheriff of a small town and how he dealt with and discovered the person who killed so many children. By finding the killer he also was able to deal with his own demons."

A reader from Wakefield read *Before we say goodbye* by Toshikazu Kawaguchi: "This book hit different than the other 3 books in the series, honestly my least favorite of the 4."

A reader from Yarmouth Port read *A True Account Hannah Masury's Sojourn Amongst the Pyrates, Written by Herself* by Katherine Howe: "Very entertaining, Showed the hardships of being a young girl in the 18th century desperate to do anything to change her circumstances. Hannah's life is being researched by a professor in 1930, also trying to make her way in a man's world."

A reader from Chicopee read *The Last Animal* by Ramona Ausubel: "A tale of science in which two daughters discover a young baby mammoth in today's age. With the help of their mother, a scientist, the implant some of its cells in a modern day elephant, resulting in the birth of a baby mammoth, changing their world."

A reader from Chicopee read *My Husband* by Maud Ventura: "A sophisticated but crazy French woman spends her married life obsessing over her "perfect" husband. One day she goes too far & her obsession may ruin everything."

A reader from Lowell read *Fourth Wing* by Rebecca Yarros: "Read this because it has been very hyped on social media but was a bit of a let down, was written like a young adult novel with sex and F bombs thrown in. I ended up getting sucked in by the end and I wont say I didnt enjoy it but the writing did not impress me and it was not as amazing as everything claimed."

A reader from Attleboro read *Sure, I'll Join Your Cult: A Memoir of Mental Illness and the Quest to Belong Anywhere* by Maria Bamford: "Tough subject matter written with humor. A little hard to get into but liked the ending."

A reader from Scituate read *Enough* by Cassidy Hutchinson: "The bravery of such a young woman to step up and tell the truth is awe inspiring."

A reader from Belchertown read *Between Us* by Mhairi McFarlane: "I loved that this book was a rom com that was more focused on the individual growth of the characters."

A reader from Agawam read *A Most Agreeable Murder* by Julia Seales: "This is a book set in the 19th century featuring a strong female lead and absurdist humor surrounding the murder of a handsome (and rich) bachelor. A fun, quick read that had me both smirking and cringing."

A reader from Cambridge read *To 2040* by Jorie Graham: "Never disappoints! New poems from a modern master and environmental advocate."

A reader from Hadley read *All the Beauty in the World* by Patrick Bringley: "I really enjoyed the behind-the-scenes glimpses of the Met in this former museum guard's memoir. There is so much more to this popular museum that the casual museum-goer has no idea about!"

A reader from Beverly read *Mrs. Plansky's Revenge* by Spencer Quinn: "At first it was hard to get into this story, with Christmas being such a busy season, and not liking many of the characters, but then as I got to know the characters better, I couldn't put it down. A very enjoyable read with a satisfying ending."

A reader from Fall River read *Symphony of Secrets* by Brendan Slocumb: "BEST book I read this year. Even better than the author's debut novel, which I loved (*The Violin Conspiracy*). Intrigue, history, music, characters with depth and substance, excellent, well-paced writing. Can't recommend highly enough."

A reader from Lunenburg read *The Wager* by David Grann: "This true story of survival, shipwreck and mutiny keeps the reader on the edge of their seat. I found the themes of imperialism, racism and class distinction educating and historically relevant to the 21st century."

A reader from Chester read *Making It So* by Patrick Stewart: "This book was surprisingly well-written. It had fascinating information about the author."

A reader from Wakefield read *Iron Flame* by Rebecca Yarros: "Enjoyable sequel read! I did like the first one a little more but I was still glued to this book from the moment I got it. It's fun and keeps you entertained!"

A reader from Salem read *Family Lore* by Elizabeth Acevedo: "Acevedo delivers a powerful story of sisterhood and family that simultaneously grounds itself in the female body and the spiritual realm and does not hold anything back."

A reader from Craryville read *I Swear: Politics Is Messier than My Minivan* by Katie Porter: "If you weren't a fan of Katie's before, you most certainly will be after reading her memoir. No nonsense and down to earth, you get an honest look at Congress and how our "democracy" truly works, and doesn't."

A reader from Sutton read *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride: "Kirkus review's first line is, 'McBride follows up his hit novel *Deacon King Kong* (2020) with another boisterous hymn to

community, mercy, and karmic justice.' I concur! I especially enjoy how Mr. Bride interweaves musical references into his novels, as he did in this one, thereby enhancing my appreciation of his writing with his talents as a stellar jazz musician."

A reader from Salem read *Whalefall* by Daniel Kraus: "This is truly one of my favorite books I've ever read! WHALEFALL by Daniel Kraus begins with the teenage Jay, gearing up to go on a solo deep dive off Monastery Beach to retrieve his father's bones from the ocean so that his family might forgive him. While below the surface he is swallowed by a sperm whale and has only an hour to figure out how to get out and resurface before his oxygen runs out. What follows is an otherworldly, claustrophobic, spiritual, visceral character study of reckoning with your past and being able to imagine a future. WHALEFALL is incredibly moving with powerful tropes of bildungsroman, survival fiction, and horror. Guilt, forgiveness, regret, broken relationships, overcoming childhood trauma, life's purpose, death, rebirth, WHALES! I'm still at the bottom of the ocean with Jay after reading this book and don't expect to come up for air soon!"

A reader from Wilmington read *The Librarianist* by Patrick DeWitt: "A surprisingly touching story. I could read Patrick Dewitt's dialogue forever and never be bored."

A reader from Beverly read *The Woman in me* by Britney Spears: "Heartbreaking account of the life of a child star."

A reader from Wellesley read *The Lost Library* by Rebecca Stead and Wendy Mass with with Jennifer Blom (Narrator), Rob Dircks (Narrator), Christopher Gebauer (Narrator): "The Lost Library by Rebecca Stead and Wendy Mass is a fairly low-stakes middle grade mystery that, for the adult reader, is the perfect palate cleanser. I loved all the characters, and the narrators of the audiobook did a great job."

A reader from Seekonk read *Warrior Girl Unearthed* by Angeline Boulley: "Boulley's YA does not read as for teens only; this book is an amazing follow-up to *The Firekeeper's Daughter*. It made me think and reevaluate how we view museums, artifacts, and cultures."

A reader from PEMBROKE read *The Spite House* by Johnny Compton: "I really wanted to like this, but it missed the mark. The concept was interesting but the story became very muddy the further in it got."

A reader from East Taunton read *She Persisted Deb Haaland* by Laurel Goodluck: "I liked this book because persisted no matter what challenges came her way."

A reader from Beverly read *The Measure of Our Age* by M.T. Connolly: "This is a book for all of us. It is full of suggestions for aging with happiness and grace. It will help us to decide what is most important as we age."

A reader from Medford read *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett: "As a huge fan of Ann Patchett, I was greatly looking forward to reading this novel, which definitely lived up to my expectations. Patchett writes with incredible skill, creating realistic characters and scenes which take on a life of their own. I was sad to come to the end of this novel and will miss the people within its pages."

A reader from Worcester read *The Rediscovery of America* by Ned Blackhawk: "An excellent re-description of American history, with a significantly more complex account shaped by and shaping the events of Native Peoples."

A reader from Amesbury read *Ice : from mixed drinks to skating rinks - a cool history of a hot commodity* by Amy Brady: "What a fascinating cultural history of something that I use so often and think about so rarely! This was interesting and informative and entertaining."

A reader from Wilbraham read *Pineapple Street* by Jenny Jackson: "A contemporary novel set in Brooklyn Heights of a super wealthy family with three grown children - - two daughters and a son. One daughter is married to an Asian man who loses his high-paying job, the other daughter is single, in love with a married man who is killed in an airplane crash, and the son is married to a middle-class woman from RI. Themes revolve around class, race, gender, and the unpredictability of life, even among the super rich. There is an additional theme that it is possible for some people to change. Quick reading, breezy, excellent depictions, and mostly enjoyable."

A reader from Hamilton read *The Mistress of Bhatia House* by Sujata Massey: "The fourth book in Massey's Perveen Mistry series, the character development in this story was a bit disappointing. Specifically, Perveen is firmly locked into family and cultural expectations and her personal life seems like more of an afterthought than in previous offerings. However, the book is still a fascinating exploration of the role of Indian women in colonial India."

A reader from Boston read *Emily Wilde's Encyclopedia of Faeries* by Heather Fawcett: "I thought this was a very sweet and fun to read fantasy book with great characters and immersive writing. I enjoyed it as someone who typically doesn't read fantasy!"

A reader from PLYMOUTH read *Unnatural Death* by Patricia Cornwell: "Kay Scarpetta... i mean...i adore Cornwell. My chosen genre!"

A reader from Beverly read *Maizy Chen's Last Chance* by Lisa Yes: "I loved reading about the heart-touching bond between Maizy and her grandparents, Oma and Opa. This edge-of-seat-exciting book is great for people who want to read a story about the challenges that Chinese faced growing up in the 1800s, or if you want to read a story about a big mystery that leaves every reader stumped. 5 stars."

A reader from Northampton read *The Woman in Me* by Britney Spears: "While certain aspects of this memoir had been spoiled for me by social media, I'm glad that I read Britney's haunting version of her life story. Not spoiled for me, and quite interesting to learn about, were details of her early family life and her work ethic at the beginning of her career."

A reader from Springfield read *My name is barbra* by Barbra Streisand: "A huge book (900+ pages) but we'll worth the time. I listened to the audio version narrated by the author. It really felt like I was having coffee with her and listening to the story of her life. Such an amazing, talented woman."

A reader from Melrose read *The brothers hawthorne* by Jennifer Lynn barnes: "A good continuance of the original trilogy. Love the riddles within the story."

A reader from Andover read *Birnam Wood* by Eleanor Catton: "I was glad to be introduced to this author. This was a tricky novel to classify in terms of genre."

A reader from Brookline read *Chain gang all stars* by Nana kwame adjei-brenyah: "This was an awesome dystopian novel with a commentary on overcriminalization."

A reader from Erving read *The Prison Child* by Shari J. Ryan: “Whoops! I mistakenly did NOT read a book published in 2023. It was in the 2023 section at our library, but I didn’t double check till just now. I recommend this book. The story - written in first person — revolves around a woman who discovered that she was born in a WWII prison camp and the parents who raised her are not her real parents. She sets out to find what her real heritage is. I definitely will check out other novels by this author!”

A reader from Northampton read *The Audrey Hepburn Estate* by Debra Janowitz: “So boring! Weird and trite and simplistic. I should have expected that but I often enjoy simple frothy books.”

A reader from Hopkinton read *Happiness Falls* by Angie Kim: “This book was immersive and dealt with themes of culture, autism, isolation, perception, love, responsibility, and family, all loosely wrapped in a missing persons investigation.”

A reader from Hopkinton read *Mystic River* by Dennis Lehane: “I love Dennis Lehane's writing. I found it hard to move on from the Kenzie and Gennaro series. I did so reluctantly but what a story. Sad yet so compelling.”

A reader from WILBRAHAM read *Someone Else's Shoes* by Jojo Moyes: “The main character loses her shoes because of a mix-up with gym bags. She also learns what life is like walking in someone else's shoes. The characters are likeable, and the plot is fun.”

A reader from Salem read *Love Is in the Air: The Story of Aviation Pioneer Nancy Harkness Love* by Dee Romito: “I wish I had this book when I was a little girl. It should be made into a movie. It's fascinating history that everyone should know. It reminded me of Hidden Figures, a story of smart and courageous women, but their story was never told until decades later.”

A reader from Melrose read *Lost in the Moment and Found* by Seanan McGuire: “A great addition to the fantastic Wayward Children series. 4/5”

A reader from Beverly read *Bad Summer People* by Emma Rosenblum: “Bad rich summer people who have no sense of right or wrong.”

A reader from Forestdale read *The Ball at Versailles* by Danielle Steel: “It was cute!”

A reader from Attleboro read *Symphony of Secrets* by Brendan Slocumb: “A noted music professor is contacted by the Delaney Foundation and asked to verify the authenticity of a newly discovered opera by the late Frederick Delaney. This powerfully written novel will appeal to mystery, literary fiction, suspense, history, and music lovers.”

A reader from Quiny read *What the River Knows* by Isabel Ibanez: “This book is not what I was expecting. And I was not expecting it to end the way it did.”

A reader from Hudson read *Yumi and the Nightmare Painter* by Brandon Sanderson: “A book about connection and writing one's own story, complimented by supporting artwork that is both beautiful and touching in it's bareness. For fans of the Cosmere, fun references and Easter eggs abound.”

A reader from WAKEFIELD read *Master Slave Husband Wife* by Ilyon Woo: “So well-written, fascinating read. I learned so much history. I was also fortunate to hear the author speak about the writing of her book at the Sweetser Lecture Series in Wakefield. She's an excellent presenter, too.”

A reader from West Yarmouth read *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters: “Wow. So powerful. Highly recommend.”

A reader from Weston read *The puppets of spelhorst* by Kate dicamillo: “Good plot and interesting character. Really liked the book.”

A reader from Belchertown read *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett: “I thoroughly enjoyed this book. A sweet way of remembering the past by telling the story to her children. Interesting how she weaved in the pandemic without it being overwhelming.”

A reader from Hingham read *Twelve Days of Murder* by Andreina Cordani: “Twisty murder mystery read with a Holiday theme!”

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett: “Fun little story.”

A reader from Beverly read *Don't let them bury my story : the oldest living survivor of the Tulsa Race Massacre in her own words* by Viola Ford Fletcher: “Powerful to hear the story of an 108-year-old woman and how the Tulsa race massacre affected her whole family and life.”

A reader from Franklin read *The Spy Coast* by Tess Gerritsen: “This was a fun easy read— Perfect for December when you need an easy break from all the holiday activities.”

A reader from Lynnfield read *Fourth Wing* by Rebecca Yarros: “I waited a while to give into the hype on this one, but I finally decided to give it a try. It's really fun, and the fantasy world is interesting and action-packed.”

A reader from Stoneham read *Sam* by Allegra Goodman: “This novel set in Massachusetts depicts the life of a young girl growing into womanhood and all the curves life throws at her. Being raised by a single mother along with a young brother who has emotional issues, little money, Sam discovers rock climbing with her less than present father.”

A reader from Northampton read *vera wong's unsolicited advice for murderers* by Jesse Q. Sutanto: “Absolutely hilarious and the murderer is someone you would never suspect. Vera is the Auntie I've dreamed of and I would to eat any of her dishes!”

A reader from Stoneham read *The Mystery at Dunvegan Castle* by T. L. Huchu: “Huchu does a fantastic job keeping the reader guessing while the story unfolds. Great descriptions of Isle of Skye. I can't wait to see what trouble Ropa falls into next.”

A reader from Boylston read *The Book of Charlie* by David Von Drehle: “Sometimes stories about real life can be more incredible than fiction. This book about the life of a man who lived to be 109 is just that.”

A reader from Hudson read *What you are looking for is in the library* by Michiko Aoyama: “I am a sucker for anything that has “library” in the title, and I figured this counted for the challenge since the translation was published this year! This was a total feel-good read!”

A reader from Worcester read *Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride: “Could not put this book down!”

A reader from Braintree read *The Door-to-Door Bookstore* by Carsten Henn: “The book jacket description sold me: ‘The charming international bestseller about an unlikely friendship between an elderly door-to-

door bookseller and a nine year old girl that changes his life.' Yes, this slender book is a gentle, heart-warming read."

A reader from South Easton read *Dirty Thirty* by Janet Evanovich: "Another entertaining installment in the reliably funny Stephanie Plum series."

A reader from Montague read *Mother, Nature: A 5000-Mile Journey to Discover if a Mother and Son Can Survive Their Differences* by Jedidiah Jenkins: "Enjoyed his previous book more...I thought this would be about recreating his mother's previous walk across America but it turned out to be a road trip instead. Mostly about how to love across political/religious division."

A reader from Dracut read *The Woman In Me* by Britney Spears: "An at times harrowing account of Britney's life up until now from her perspective."

A reader from Beverly read *Being Henry* by Henry Winkler: "I enjoyed his story."

A reader from Bolton read *upgrade* by black crouch: "I really like Blake's detail oriented sci fi that digs into into the science behind the fiction."

A reader from Woods Hole read *Necessary Trouble* by Drew Gilpin Faust: "It's the first memoir I can recall reading by someone in my age bracket. A great review of the 50's into the early 70's. I would recommend this book."

A reader from Melrose read *Reykjavik: A Crime Story* by Ragnar Jonasson, Katrin Jakobsdottir, Victoria Cribb (Translator): "I enjoyed reading something that is a little different! The historical aspect really put things into perspective for me as a fan of Scandinavian literature (especially Noir)."

A reader from Melrose read *One Last Shot* by Kip Wilson: "This novel was written for young adults, but should be promoted as a good read for adults as well. It is an historical novel set in Germany, Spain and Paris preceding World War 2 and is based on the stories of real people. It is beautifully written in verse."

A reader from Hamilton read *Yellowface* by R. F. Kuang: "Loooved this book. It kept me interested the entire time and I thought it was very well done and the writing was great."

A reader from Dracut read *A Winter in New York* by Josie Silver: "Despite the title, this quick read felt more like a November read. Enjoyable little romcom."

A reader from Beverly read *The Ocean Above Me* by Kevin Sites: "I enjoyed this read. It was fast paced and interesting."

A reader from Holden read *Affinities on Art and Fascination* by Brian Dillon: "This book made interesting connections between broad swaths of artists and art forms. Not a page turner, but insightful."

A reader from Buckland read *The Lost Bookshop* by Evie Woods: "Beautifully written, defiantly a book for all who enjoy reading. A reminder of the power of storytelling as well as the power of a book to draw one into another space."

A reader from Sandwich read *World of Curiosity* by Louise Penny: "Great intrigue with a story line from a previous novel that leaves the reader gasping!"

A reader from Falmouth read *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett: "I enjoy books that go between the present day and the past. This book takes place during the covid pandemic, and the children are learning about a piece of their mother's past."

A reader from Leominster read *Move Like Water: My Story of the Sea* by Hannah Stowe: "This was a beautiful memoir about a scientist whose life is, and always has been, intricately interwoven with the ocean. I loved it."

A reader from Brewster read *The Mitford Affair* by Marie Benedict: "Really enjoyed this book. It's set in WWII about six English debutante sisters from England set in the 1930's and how they pick sides for their allegiance."

A reader from shrewsbury read *Spare* by Prince Harry: "Interesting memoir."

A reader from Andover read *Astor* by Anderson Cooper and Katherine Howe: "I didn't know much about the Astor family or how they got their wealth in America through JJ Astor and the beaver trade. It was interesting, but I thought the Vanderbilt book they wrote was better."

A reader from Danvers read *How Not to Age* by Dr. Michael Greger: "I'm not yet finished with this book, but I'm enjoying reading about ways I can improve my odds of aging more gracefully."

A reader from somerville read *The House in the Pines* by Ana Reyes: "It was okay. Was expecting more from the intriguing cover, title, and description."

A reader from Lowell read *Henry At Work Thoreau On Making A Living* by John Kaag and Jonathan Van Belle: "This is a very thought provoking book. It details the various jobs Thoreau held while examining Thoreau's beliefs about work and its intersection with the business of life. It inspired me to think of my own career and how it may better serve my goals in life."

A reader from Northfield read *The Last Tale of the Flower Bride* by Roshani Chokshi: "I really enjoyed this book! It was a 'can't put it down' type of book!"

A reader from Erving read *Identity* by Nora Roberts: "I found this an interesting book about identity theft and it's sort of a warning about one should be careful with their computer passwords and things that are put out for others to read. About half way through the book it was easy to pretty much predict how the story was end but I still enjoyed reading this book."

A reader from Burlington read *Cicadas Sing of Summer Graves* by Quinn Connor: "This book is quite surreal, with a tone you just have to let yourself sink into. It feels a bit like a more magical Needful Things, with actual ghosts buried beneath a lake at the center of a tension-filled small town. I'm so glad I read this one."

A reader from Beverly read *What an Owl Knows* by Jennifer Ackerman: "Well told narrative about different owls and the people who care about and for them: scientists, researchers, and many volunteers. The author covers a lot of material in an accessible way, with interesting stories, anecdotes, and personalities - human and Owl."

A reader from Hadley read *Last Chance to Find Duke* by Shang Zhang: "An interesting visual style and simple yet nuanced story."

A reader from Providence read *Kindness and Wonder Why Mister Rogers Matters Now More Than Ever* by Gavin Edwards: "This book made me so nostalgic for the days when Mr. Rogers sang to me from the television set in the family living room."

A reader from Reading read *The Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese: "A long 715 page novel that spans 3 generations in India. Beautifully written with strong characters who celebrate, grieve, and try to figure out the "condition" that causes some of them to drown. Highly recommend!"

A reader from Bolton read *Meet me at the lake* by Carly Fortuna: "A fun book with likable characters."

A reader from Randolph read *Hello Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano: "This was a wonderful, engaging and well-written story of four sisters and the love they share through life, loss and being a family, from beginning to end. This is a great story to read to close out the 2023 reading year."

A reader from Wilmington read *The Ferryman* by Justin Cronin: "I actually read more than 6 2023 books and did not find them appealing when it comes to literary qualities of the actual writing, but then i finally encountered one. I haven't ever read any cronin but this was recommended to me by sf book club. without any preconceived notions nor any plot details, i was pleasantly surprised at the quality of the actual writing but quick paced plot. the entire motif of matrix-like concept where you thought the plot was going to be a world within a world... and then it peels it back one more time to reveal humanity is on a seed ship. anyway... it was a brisk and entertaining read. i'm not sure i'll continue to read any modern books but it was a good and quick dip into what current authors are accomplishing, that good writing still exists. back to classics i go."

A reader from Dracut read *Iron Flame* by Rebecca Yarros: "Can't wait for Book 3!"