



BOOK CLUB BOOKS

Below are this winter's Book Club selections. Chosen to represent a range of interests, it is hoped these books will stimulate thought and discussion among our diverse group of readers. As always, your comments and suggestions are welcome.

WINTER 2016

Deep Down Dark: The Untold Stories of 33 Men Buried in a Chilean Mine by Hector Tobar

When the San Jose mine collapsed in 2010, the world was mesmerized by the fate of the 33 men trapped a half mile underground for 69 days. This is a gripping, awe-inspiring tale of survival, moving back and forth between how each man copes with his predicament and how the family members above hold on to hope. (nonfiction)

Five Days at Memorial: Life and Death in a Storm-Ravaged Hospital by Sheri Fink

As the floodwaters rose after Hurricane Katrina, patients, staff, and families who sheltered in New Orleans' Memorial Hospital faced another crisis. Without power, an evacuation plan, or strong leadership, caregiving became chaotic, and exhausted doctors and nurses had difficulty making even minor decisions. Fink, a Pulitzer Prize winner for her reporting for the New York Times, has written a searing recreation of these events and the people affected. The book has won many literary prizes. (nonfiction)

I'll Drink to That: A Life in Style, With a Twist by Betty Halbreich

As a long-time personal shopper at an upscale department store, Halbreich counseled clients on far more than how to dress. With her Midwestern pragmatism and spirited outlook, she has faced down her share of adversity to emerge triumphant. Here she sizes up her own life fearlessly and shares what she's learned with humor and generosity. (nonfiction)

Let Me Be Frank With You by Richard Ford

Comprised of four interlinked novellas, Ford continues to reflect on the meaning of existence through the story of Frank Bascombe, his observant, wry, and vulnerable protagonist. The setting is the New Jersey Shore in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy and all that the destruction symbolizes to Frank as he confronts his own retirement and health issues. Ford is a master craftsman who has won both the Pulitzer Prize and the PEN/Faulkner Award. (fiction)

A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman

From one of Sweden's most renowned authors comes this charming story of the grumpy yet secretly tender Ove. A solitary soul who has always disliked most other human beings, Ove has gotten even worse since his dear wife's death. But when a young couple and their children move in next door, his oldest friend faces being evicted from his nursing home, and a stray cat needs love, Ove must set aside his suicide plans to reconnect with the world. Funny, poignant, and unpredictable. (fiction)

Mermaids in Paradise by Lydia Millet

Newlyweds Deb and Chip are honeymooning at an island resort when they meet a marine biologist who insists there are mermaids in the coral reef. With a keen sense of the absurd and the pacing of a thriller, Millet makes a point about corporate greed and the destruction of the environment without ever being heavy handed. A funny and wise take on the craziness of modern life. (fiction)

The Moor's Account by Laila Lalami

Compelling historical fiction about the first encounters between Spanish conquistadors and Native Americans. Lalami braids together many viewpoints in a complex tale of New World exploration, shedding light on a little known story full of high hopes, divided loyalties, fortunes to be made and lost, and unforgettable characters. The book has been nominated for numerous prizes including the Man Booker and the Pulitzer Prize. (fiction)

The Same Sky by Amanda Eyre Ward

A deeply sympathetic look at the contrast between middle-class life in the U. S. and the desperate existence of those living in Central America. Ward creates two very different storylines that slowly come together. Alice lives with her husband in Texas, where they own a wildly successful barbecue joint but have been unlucky in their attempts to adopt a child. Eleven-year-old Carla, in Honduras, sees her means of support slip away after her mother moves to America and her caretaker grandmother dies. She's left alone to look after her little brother, slowly starving, until Carla decides to make the dangerous journey north to Texas. Haunting and powerful. (fiction)



Wilmette Public Library
1242 Wilmette Avenue
Wilmette, IL 60091
(847)256-5025
<http://www.wilmette.lib.il.us>