

2022 The Brown Baggers 3rd Tuesdays 12:30 p.m.

Jan. 18 *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes — In this Depression Era tale, young British woman Alice looks forward to a new life in Kentucky with her new American husband. Finding small town life there just as suffocating as back in England, she volunteers to be a librarian with the newly formed Packhorse Library, a program started by the government as part of FDR'S New Deal. There she finds the friendship and acceptance she wasn't able to have before.

Feb. 15 *The Silent Patient* by Alex Michaelides — Theo Faber is a criminal psychotherapist who has just been handed his biggest case yet. He is assigned to work with Alicia Berenson, a famous painter who has been completely silent since shooting and killing her husband, and is now being housed at a secure forensic unit in North London.

March 15 *It's Not All Downhill From Here* by Terry McMillan — On the eve of her 68th birthday, Loretha Curry is feeling good about her successful business, great group of friends and loving marriage. She's determined to show everyone you can age gracefully, and that there's still a lot for her to look forward to in life.

April 19 *Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold — Aldo Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac* has enthralled generations of nature lovers and conservationists since its initial publication in 1949. It is considered one of the finest examples of nature writing since Henry David Thoreau's *Walden*. Readers follow the author as he walks about the Wisconsin landscape observing nature at work. He also comments throughout the book on society's abuse of our natural surroundings and what should be done to preserve them.

May 17 *The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead — Elwood Curtis, an African American teen in the 1960s Florida, is an exemplary student who will soon gain early admission to college. After inadvertently becoming involved in a crime, he is sentenced to the Nickel Academy, a reform school, where he and the other students become victims of racism and abuse. From the author of the National Book Award-winning novel, *The Underground Railroad*.

June 21 *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah — A Depression-era woman confronts a wrenching choice between fighting for the Dust Bowl-ravaged land she loves in Texas or pursuing an uncertain future in California. From the author of *The Nightingale* and *The Great Alone*, the novel is a testament to the strength of the human spirit to survive adversity.

July 19 *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah — The author's path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of *The Daily Show* began with a criminal act: his birth. Born to a White father and a Black mother he struggles to find himself in a world where he was never supposed to exist. Growing up without his father, he moved with his fearless mother between the black and white townships near Johannesburg, rarely feeling accepted anywhere.

Aug. 16 *Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman — In a town in Sweden, a desperate parent turns to bank robbery to help pay the rent. When it goes wrong, he flees the police by running into a nearby apartment building interrupting an open house, and causing the would-be buyers to assume they're being held hostage. Cutting back and forth in time, the surprise-filled narrative reveals the poignant backstories of both hostages and hostage taker in this funny and warm examination of how individual experiences can bring a random group of people together.

Sept. 20 *Talking to Strangers* by Malcolm Gladwell — In this thoughtful and intriguing work, spurred by the 2015 death of African-American academic Sandra Bland in jail after a traffic stop, the author investigates the strategies people use to assess strangers they meet. He uses a variety of examples from history and recent headlines to illustrate that people size up the motivations, emotions, and trustworthiness of those they don't know both wrongly and with misplaced confidence in the accuracy of their judgements.

Oct. 18 *Homeland Elegies* by Ayad Akhtar — A deeply personal work from the award-winning Pakistani American author and playwright about identity and belonging in a nation coming apart at the seams, which blends fact and fiction to tell an epic story of longing and dispossession in the post 9/11 world. Part family drama, part social essay, part picaresque novel, at its heart it is the story of a father, a son, and the country they both call home.

Nov. 15 *When the Stars Go Dark* by Paula McLain — When unspeakable tragedy strikes her personal life, a seasoned police detective retreats to a northern California village where she spent summers as a child, only to be dragged into a case of local girls who have gone missing.

Dec. 13 *The Buddha In the Attic* by Julie Otsuka — This novel tells the stories of six Japanese mail-order brides whose new lives in early twentieth-century San Francisco are marked by backbreaking migrant work, cultural struggles, children who reject their heritage, and the prospect of wartime internment.

**The Tuesday Afternoon Group
“The Brown Baggers”**

- ◆ Meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month (except where noted) at 12:30 p.m.
- ◆ Leader: Peer-led discussions

The Brown Baggers meetings are free and open to the public, no registration or reservation is needed.

Bring your own lunch. Beverages are provided.

To get a copy of the book being discussed: Pick up a copy at the checkout desk. Library copies will be reserved in advance. Another option is to purchase a copy at area bookstores. These titles may also be available as e-books through 3M Cloud Ebooks, Hoopla, or Libby (please ask a librarian if you need help accessing electronic versions of these titles).

Cancellations due to weather: The Brown Baggers book discussion group meetings will be cancelled if the library closes, or if the leader of the group notifies the library that the group will not meet due to weather conditions.



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