

**Jan. 20** *The Kitchen Front* by Jennifer Ryan — In 1942 wartorn Britain, in an effort to help housewives with food rationing, a BBC radio program called The Kitchen Front is holding a cooking contest—and the grand prize is a job as the program's first-ever female co-host. For four very different women, winning the competition would present a crucial chance to change their lives.

**Feb. 17** *Demon Copperfield* by Barbara Kingsolver — Kingsolver's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel is a modern retelling of Charles Dickens's *David Copperfield*, set against the backdrop of systemic poverty and the opioid crisis in contemporary rural Appalachia. The story follows the life of a resilient boy named Damon Fields, nicknamed "Demon Copperhead" due to his copper-colored hair and fiery spirit, as he navigates a life filled with adversity.

**March 17** *The Women* by Kristin Hannah — Raised on idyllic Coronado Island and sheltered by her conservative parents, Frances "Frankie" McGrath has always prided herself on doing the right thing, being a good girl. But in 1965 the world is changing, and she suddenly imagines a different choice for her life. When her brother ships out to serve in Vietnam, she impulsively joins the Army Nurse Corps and follows his path.

**April 21** *The Word is Murder* by Anthony Horowitz — In this mystery novel, a fictionalized version of the author is unwillingly drawn into a murder investigation by disgraced detective Daniel Hawthorne. A wealthy woman, Diana Cowper, plans her own funeral and is murdered six hours later. Hawthorne, who needs a ghostwriter to document his life, insists Horowitz write his story, forcing the author to shadow the abrasive detective as he investigates the case.

**May 19** *A Woman of No Importance* by Sonia Purnell — American Virginia Hall — rejected from the foreign service because of her gender and her prosthetic leg — became the first woman sent to occupied France, (working for British intelligence), before the United States had even entered WWII. Hall coordinated a network of spies to blow up bridges, report on German troop movements, arrange equipment drops for Resistance agents, and recruit and train guerrilla fighters.

**June 16** *The Life Impossible* by Matt Haig — Seventy-two-year-old retired math teacher Grace Winters, inherits a house in Ibiza from a long-lost friend. Her initial plan to sell the property turns into a journey of self-discovery as she investigates her friend's mysterious death, and uncovers a magical side to the island.

\*\*\* Books selected are subject to change based upon availability. \*\*\*

**July 21** *All the Broken Places* by John Boyne — Ninety-one-year-old Gretel Fernsby has lived in the same well-to-do mansion block in London for decades. She lives a quiet, comfortable life, despite her deeply disturbing, dark past. She doesn't talk about her escape from Nazi Germany at age 12. She doesn't talk about the grim post-war years in France with her mother. Most of all, she doesn't talk about her father, who was the commandant of one of the Reich's most notorious extermination camps. When a troubled family moves in downstairs, distressing memories of Gretel's past are triggered.

**Aug. 18** *The Keeper of Lost Things* by Ruth Hogan — This heartwarming novel about love, loss, and redemption, centers on an elderly man's collection of lost objects, and the woman tasked with reuniting them with their owners.

**Sept. 15** *The Measure* by Nikki Erlick — In this novel, one day everyone in the world receives a mysterious wooden box containing a string that reveals the length of their life, forcing humanity to confront destiny, choice, and mortality. The story follows eight interconnected characters navigating love, loss, and societal upheaval caused by this newly-gained knowledge.

**Oct. 20** *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters — In July 1962, a Mi'kmaq family from Nova Scotia arrives in Maine to pick blueberries for the summer. Weeks later, four-year-old Ruthie, the family's youngest child, vanishes. She was last seen by her six-year-old brother, Joe, who will remain distraught by his sister's disappearance for years to come. In Maine, a young girl named Norma grows up as the only child of an affluent family. Norma is often troubled by recurring dreams and visions that seem more like memories than imagination. As she grows older, Norma slowly comes to realize there is something her parents aren't telling her.

**Nov. 17** *Fuzz: When Nature Breaks the Law* by Mary Roach — Join science writer Mary Roach on an irresistible investigation into the unpredictable world where wildlife and humans meet. What's to be done about a jaywalking moose? A grizzly bear caught breaking and entering? A murderous tree? As Roach discovers, the answers are best found not in jurisprudence but in science.

**Dec. 15** *The Glassmaker* by Tracy Chevalier — In 1486, Orsola Rosso is the eldest daughter in a family of glassblowers in Murano, Italy. As a woman, she is not meant to blow glass — but when her father dies, she teaches herself to make beads in secret, and her work becomes the cornerstone of the Rosso family fortunes. Readers follow Orsola and her family through the centuries as they live through creative triumph and heartbreaking loss.

## 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 the Hoopla or Libby apps (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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## Brown Baggers Book Discussion Group



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