

2019 NIGHT READERS -- 4TH MONDAYS AT 6 P.M.

1/28* *American Dervish* by Ayed Akhtar — This coming of age novel tells the story of Hayat Shah, a preteen Pakistani-American boy growing up in 1980s Milwaukee as he begins to develop his religious and ethnic identity. When his mother's old best friend from Pakistan moves in to their home, Hayat becomes infatuated, and is also inspired by her to delve deeper into his faith.

2/25 *The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid* by Bill Bryson — Bryson, bestselling author of *A Walk in the Woods* and *I'm a Stranger Here Myself*, hilariously chronicles his childhood in 1950s Iowa with fun and nostalgic memories of the days of *Sky King*, TV dinners, X-ray Spex, Sputnik and *Dr. Kildare*.

3/25 *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult — Ruth Jefferson, a widow with a teenage son, is a labor and delivery nurse and the only African American in her department. When the infant son of two white supremacists, who have specifically asked that Ruth not handle their child, dies suddenly, Ruth is blamed for the child's death by both the hospital and the child's parents.

4/22* *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance — The son of a drug-addict mother and an absent father, Vance was brought up in Ohio by his native Kentuckian grandparents, who were steeped in the ways of Appalachia. They managed to give him the support he needed, and he went on to serve with the U.S. Marines in Iraq and graduate from Yale University.

5/20* *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande** — Surgeon Gawande examines the contemporary experience of aging and dying. Culture and modern medicine currently follow an end-of-life approach which stresses safety and protection, but Gawande explores methods to make this period of a person's life more gratifying and meaningful.

6/24 *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate — Based upon the true story of the infamous Tennessee Children's Home Society child trafficking racket, this novel is a heartrending tale of two girls, two generations, and the power of family love.

* **Potluck** — participants are invited to bring a dish to pass

7/22* *My Grandmother Asked Me To Tell You She's Sorry* by Frederik Backman — When 7-year-old Elsa's grandmother (and best and only friend) dies, Elsa feels emotionally adrift. Thanks to a scavenger hunt her grandmother put together before her death, Elsa is able to establish a group of new human connections.

8/26 *Lilac Girls* by Martha Hall Kelly — During World War II Polish teenager Kasia Kuzmerick's decision to join the Resistance movement results in her being exiled to a brutal Nazi concentration camp. There she comes in contact with Herta Oberhauser, a young, ambitious Nazi doctor who conducts "experiments" on prisoners. Meanwhile, American socialite Caroline Ferriday spends the war sending relief overseas while experiencing the pain of a tortured love affair.

9/23 *My Own Words* by Ruth Bader Ginsburg — The subject of an opera, a blog, and an array of kitschy memorabilia, Supreme Court Justice Ginsburg has captured the popular imagination for the depth of her devotion to basic rights for all humanity, but most especially for those causes that advance gender equality.

10/28* *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley — The classic gothic novel presents the story of young Dr. Victor Frankenstein and his experiment that leads to the creation of a monstrous and deadly creature, and sets in motion a terrible series of events that destroys everything he loves.

11/18* *Glass Houses* by Louise Penny** — In the 13th book in Penny's popular "Chief Inspector Gamache" series (after *A Great Reckoning*), Armand Gamache is now the head of the Sûreté du Québec, which seems to be a sinking ship headed for disaster. Switching back and forth from an October murder scene in the village of Three Pines to a trial in a steamy summer courtroom in Montréal, the tale of a region devastated by drugs unfolds.

12/16* *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith** — This well-loved novel profiles the Nolans, an Irish-American family living in early 20th century New York City. Francie Nolan, 11 when the novel begins, sees education as the way to make it out of their rough and tumble Brooklyn neighborhood.

*** **Meeting on date other than 4th Monday of the month**

The Monday Evening Group “The Night Readers”

- ◆ Meets the 4th Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m., January through December, except where noted.
- ◆ Leader: Peer-led discussions

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

The Night Readers invite participants to bring their own dinners to the meetings, if they choose, to eat during the discussion. Several meetings throughout the year are designated as “potluck” in which participants are invited to bring a dish to pass. Beverages are provided at each meeting.

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 Library or Overdrive (please ask a librarian if you need help accessing electronic versions of these titles).

Cancellations due to weather: The Night Readers 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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BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

2019 SCHEDULE



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