

2021 Night Readers — 4th Mondays at 6 p.m.

Jan. 25* *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett — A tale set over the course of five decades traces a young man's rise from poverty to wealth and back again, as his prospects center around his family's lavish Philadelphia estate. By the award-winning author of *Commonwealth* and *Bel Canto*.

Feb. 22 *Little Faith* by Nickolas Butler — Lyle Hovde is at the onset of his golden years, living a mostly content life in rural Wisconsin. He becomes concerned about his daughter's involvement with an extremist church whose leader believes Lyle's grandson has the spiritual ability to heal the sick.

March 22 *1984* by George Orwell — It is 1984, and ordinary citizen Winston Smith looks for ways to experience more freedoms in the oppressive totalitarian society of Oceania, which demands total obedience to its laws and where even rebellious thoughts are a crime.

April 26* *The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead — Elwood Curtis, an African American Florida teen in the 1960s, 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*.

May 24 *The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row* by Anthony Ray Hinton — In 2015, Anthony Ray Hinton was released after serving nearly 30 years on Alabama's death row for crimes he didn't commit. His memoir is a troubling, moving, and ultimately exalting journey through the decades Hinton lived under the threat of death while an unjust system that refused to acknowledge mistakes failed him repeatedly.

June 28 *In the Garden of Beasts: Love and Terror and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin* by Erik Larson — In 1933, University of Chicago history professor William E. Dodd accepts an offer from President Franklin D. Roosevelt to take the post of ambassador to Germany. This account of the evolution of the Nazi regime as observed by Dodd and his family, sometimes at an uncomfortably close distance, comes from best-selling author Larson (*The Devil in the White City*, *Isaac's Storm*, *Dead Wake*).

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

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

July 26* *Calypso* by David Sedaris — In his 2018 collection of essays, popular humorist David Sedaris contemplates mortality through stories of his new walking routine, plane travel, family gatherings at his new vacation home, his mother's death in 1991, and his sister's suicide in 2015. Through his wit, he reveals the absurdity, tragedy, and beauty of life.

† July Hoopla Bonus Book: *The Supremes at Earl's All-You-Can-Eat* by Edward Kelsey Moore.

Aug. 23 *Caroline: Little House Revisited* by Sarah Miller — For decades, generations of readers have been enchanted by the adventures of Laura Ingalls Wilder in the *Little House* books. Now, that familiar story is retold in this captivating tale of family, fidelity, hardship, love, and survival that vividly reimagines our past.

Sept. 27 *Sing, Unburied, Sing* by Jesmyn Ward — In this novel, National Book Award winner Ward tells the story of three generations of a struggling Mississippi family. Thirteen-year-old Jojo and his little sister, Kayla, live with their grandparents as their troubled mother, Leonie, drifts in and out of their lives. When Leonie hears the children's father is being released from prison, she packs them in the car for a road trip to the penitentiary, hoping for a loving reunion.

Oct. 25* *The Lost Vintage* by Ann Mah — A wine expert in training travels to her family's vineyard in France. There, she and her cousin's wife discover a cache of valuable bottles of wine hidden by her grandfather during the French Resistance of WWII. They also discover evidence of a shocking family secret.

† October Hoopla Bonus Book: *Handling Sin* by Michael Malone

Nov. 15*** *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman — Thirty-year-old Eleanor Oliphant leads a highly predictable and lonely life, working at an office, eating the same meals alone in her apartment, and spending her weekends overindulging with vodka. When two unexpected events force her to mingle more with the outside world, she begins to come out of her shell.

Dec. 13*** *The Book of Lost Friends* by Lisa Wingate — This novel tells the dual tale of Hannie Gossett, a Louisiana woman and former slave, and 20th century high school teacher Benny Silva, who uses Hannie's story to try to engage her unmotivated students. Hoping she may find family members she was separated from during the era of slavery, Hannie follows the two daughters of her former master as they trek to Texas, his last known location.

† Check out the Bonus Book on the Hoopla digital media service.

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

† **Hoopla Bonus Bonus Books** are available through the Hoopla Digital app. Read it in addition to, or in place of that month’s main selection. Please ask a librarian if you need help accessing items on Hoopla.

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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