

## 2024 Night Readers – 4th Mondays at 6 p.m.

**Jan. 22\*** *Commonwealth* by Ann Patchett – *Commonwealth* is the story of two broken families and the paths their lives take over the course of 40 years, through love and marriage, death and divorce, and a dark secret from childhood that lies underneath it all. From the acclaimed author of *Bel Canto* and *The Dutch House*.

**Feb. 26** *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachel Joyce – Retiree Harold Fry lives in a quiet English village. When he receives a letter from an old friend in which she tells him she is dying, he decides he must write her back. Intending to drop the letter in the post, he inadvertently ends up making a cross-country trek on foot to deliver it in person.

**March 25** *Project Hail Mary* by Andy Weir – A disgraced molecular microbiologist may be humanity's last hope when he becomes the only surviving crew member on a mission sent to discover why the sun is dying.

**April 22\*** *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig – Somewhere out beyond the edge of the universe there is a library that contains an infinite number of books, each one the story of another reality. One tells the story of your life as it is, along with another book for the life you could have lived if you had made a different choice at any point in your life. Using the library's powers, depressed Nora gets to explore if different paths in her life would have made her happier.

**May 20** *Signal Fires* by Dani Shapiro – Late on a summer night in 1985, three teenagers are in a tragic car crash in a quiet New York suburb. A girl is killed, and siblings Theo and Sarah Wilf are left with a devastating secret that will haunt them forever. By the time the Shenkman's move in across the street, the accident has faded into the past, but secrets haunt both families and cause them to become intimately intertwined.

**June 24** *Artificial Intelligence (various books)* – Artificial intelligence (AI) has become a part of our everyday lives. Think of auto-correct, "smart" devices, Alexa/Siri, Ring doorbells, and GPS. It is also a topic of significant controversy. This month, it's the topic that takes center stage rather than any single book. Each reader will read one of a variety of non-fiction books on the topic and will be given a very brief discussion outline to consider while reading. Our discussion will focus on that outline as participants contribute information from what they have learned. Culling information from various resources should help us gain a better understanding of AI.

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

**July 22\*** *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins – When a violent drug cartel attacks her family, Mexican middle-class bookstore owner Lydia Quixano and her 8-year-old son Luca must flee for their lives from their comfortable existence in Acapulco. They head north to the United States in hopes of being able to start a new life there, but it's a journey fraught with many dangers.

**Aug. 26** *The Dictionary of Lost Words* by Pip Williams – This historical novel set in the 19th century poses the question "Do words mean different things to men and women?" Esme is a young girl who frequently accompanies her father to his job compiling the *Oxford English Dictionary*, where she collects clippings of the words the editors lose or exclude. Eventually she puts together her own manuscript based on her collection of these rescued words, which often address the female experience.

**Sept. 23** *One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot* by Marianne Cronin – In the terminal ward of the Glasgow Princess Royal Hospital two patients, 17-year-old Lenni, and Margot (who's 83), become fast friends in art class. They devise a plan to create 100 paintings showcasing the stories of the century they have lived: stories of love and loss, of courage and kindness, and of unexpected tenderness and pure joy.

**Oct. 28\*** *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson – This classic gothic horror novella explores the dual nature of human personality through the story of the well-respected and amiable Henry Jekyll, a Soho physician, and his connection to the shameful exploits of a notorious London villain, the disreputable Edward Hyde.

**Nov. 18\*\*\*** *Love in the Time of Cholera* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez – Set on the Caribbean coast of South America, this love story brings together Fermina Daza, her stuffy but distinguished husband Dr. Juvenal Urbino, and another man who has secretly loved Fermina for more than 50 years. A title long a favorite of fans of the Nobel Prize-winning Colombian author.

**Dec. 16\*\*\*** *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley – Published in 1932, this novel by British author Huxley is one of those that set the standards for the many dystopian novels to have followed. Set in the year 2540, it tells the story of life in the World State, a futuristic society that revolves around science and efficiency.

\*\*\* **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., 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.

These titles *may* also be available as e-books or e-audiobooks through the Hoopla or Libby apps, which are free to use on your mobile device with your Milwaukee County Federated Library System library card. Please ask a librarian if you need help accessing these electronic versions of the selected books.

Another option is to purchase a copy at area bookstores or online.

**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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