

2026 Night Readers — 4th Mondays at 6 p.m.

Jan. 26* *Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman – Viewing an apartment normally doesn't turn into a life-or-death situation, but this particular open house becomes just that: a failed bank robber bursts in and takes everyone in the apartment hostage. As police surround the premises and television channels broadcast the hostage situation live, the eight strangers begin opening up to one another.

Feb. 23 *Barracoon: The Story of the Last "Black Cargo"* by Zora Neale Hurston – In 1927, author Zora Neale Hurston journeyed to Alabama to interview 86-year-old Cudjo Lewis, a former slave. This book masterfully illustrates the tragedy of slavery and of one life defined by it.

March 23 *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride – National Book Award winner McBride (*Deacon King Kong*) tells a vibrant tale of Chicken Hill, a working-class neighborhood of Jewish, Black, and European immigrant families in Pottstown, Pa., where the 1972 discovery of a human skeleton unearths events that took place several decades earlier.

April 27* *Careless People* by Sarah Wynn-Williams – This non-fiction insider account charts one woman's career at the heart of one of the most influential companies on the planet. *Careless People* gives the reader a front-row seat to Facebook, observing the decisions the company made that have shaped world events in recent decades, and the people there who made them.

May 18*** *Unbroken* by Lauren Hillenbrand – On a May afternoon in 1943, an Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean and disappeared, leaving only a spray of debris and a slick of oil, gasoline, and blood. Then, on the ocean surface, a face appeared – Lt. Louis Zamperini. Captured by the Japanese and driven to the limits of endurance, Zamperini would answer desperation with ingenuity; suffering with hope, resolve, and humor in this bestselling true account from WWII.

June 22 *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.

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

July 27* *The Bandit Queens* by Parini Shroff – A young Indian woman falsely rumored to have killed her husband finds a way to make her unfortunate reputation surprisingly useful – but complications arise when other village women seek her help offing their husbands. The very thing that's meant to keep her safe is now threatening everything she's built.

Aug. 24 *Seabiscuit: An American Legend* by Lauren Hillenbrand – A nondescript little bay, Seabiscuit ran 50 races without distinction on the lowest rungs of racing's class ladder before dominating the sport in the late 1930s, when he reached a level of popularity that is utterly inconceivable today.

Sept. 28 *Deacon King Kong* by James McBride – *Deacon King Kong* is a vibrant, humorous novel set in 1969 Brooklyn, centering on an aging, alcoholic church deacon, Sportcoat (aka Deacon King Kong), who impulsively shoots the local drug dealer, Deems Clemens, igniting a chaotic chain of events in the close-knit Causeway housing projects. From the author of the National Book Award-winning novel, *The Good Lord Bird*.

Oct. 26* *James* by Percival Everett – James is a reimagining of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* from the perspective of the enslaved Jim. The novel portrays James as intelligent and literate, who escapes to find freedom for himself and his family after learning he is to be sold. His journey involves navigating the dangers of the Mississippi River, a complicated relationship with Huck, and encounters with various characters, both familiar and new.

Nov. 16*** *The House in the Cerulean Sea* by T.J. Klune – As a case worker at the Department in Charge Of Magical Youth, Linus Baker spends his days overseeing the well-being of children in government-sanctioned orphanages. Unexpectedly, he is given an assignment to determine whether six dangerous children are likely to bring about the end of days.

Dec. 14*** *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah – Noah's path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of *The Daily Show* began with a criminal act: his birth. He was born to a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother; at the time such a union was punishable by five years in prison. As he struggles to find himself in a world where he was never supposed to exist, his mother is determined to save her son from the cycle of poverty, violence, and abuse that would ultimately threaten her own life.

*** 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 on the Libby app, which is 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 an area bookstore 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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NIGHT READERS BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



2026 SCHEDULE

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