

Booklover's Café, September 24th

When Breath Becomes Air

By Paul Kalanithi

"When Breath Becomes Air chronicles Kalanithi's transformation from a naïve medical student "possessed," as he wrote, "by the question of what, given that all organisms die, makes a virtuous and meaningful life" into a neurosurgeon at Stanford working in the brain, the most critical place for human identity, and finally into a patient and new father confronting his own mortality." Really liked the book- very well done.

Pines

By Blake Crouch

"Secret service agent Ethan Burke arrives in Wayward Pines, Idaho, with a clear mission: locate and recover two federal agents who went missing in the bucolic town one month earlier. But within minutes of his arrival, Ethan is involved in a violent accident. He comes to in a hospital, with no ID, no cell phone, and no briefcase. As the days pass, Ethan's investigation into the disappearance of his colleagues turns up more questions than answers. Each step closer to the truth takes Ethan further from the world he thought he knew, from the man he thought he was, until he must face a horrifying fact—he may never get out of Wayward Pines alive." Interesting mystery/scifi book- very readable. First in a trilogy.

The Portable Western Reader

Edited by William Kittredge

"William Kittredge has assembled stories, poems, essays, and excerpts that transcend the Western myth and explore the vast range of Western experience. With selections from more than seventy authors, and an introduction and headnotes by William Kittredge. The Portable Western Reader redefines the Western literary landscape." Wanted to present something different than the classic western. Includes James Welch, Linda Hogan, Walt Whitman, E. E. Cummings, John Steinbeck, Jack London, Robinson Jeffers.

Saint's Blood

By Sebastien de Castelle

(Third in a series) The author's invented a territory with a sort of late medieval style setting. There's a king, duke, commoners, etc. Central problem for the main characters are the laws are not being followed- so they created a group called the great coats- they're not military but are extraordinarily skilled at fighting. Central character is a superb swordsman. They call themselves Magistrates. Extraordinarily well developed and thoughtful. Descriptions of fighting are very thoughtfully done so you're gripped by it.

Frankenstein

By Mary Shelley

Fantastic story and it's nothing like the stories that you see repeatedly in films. Interested in the force that motivates life. The story of Frankenstein is really creative. In a way it's fairly relevant to today. What it's really talking about is the morality of scientific endeavors.

Solar Storms

By Linda Hogan

A very well-known poet. An absolutely marvelous book that made me slow down – it's very complex. It has a lot of the native American philosophies and stories. About five

generations of women. Very complex but readable parable about the native American effort to reclaim a lost way of life. Heartbreaking and wonderful at the same time.

Off the Grid

C.J. Box

A novel that deals mostly with a friend and partner of the hero of the series who is a game warden. He's a guy who loves exploring and hunting birds. He gets hijacked by a bunch of criminals who want to completely dissolve the computer systems that the government is running. His friend who's the game warden gets called in to investigate what's going on and they find a group of young people. There's a big building filled with computer parts nearby- so they're working on something to destroy it. Exciting and well developed.