

Booklover's Café
June 25th 2016

Terrible Virtue

By Ellen Feldman

Fiction book about Margaret Sanger- responsible for planned parenthood and contraception. One of the most influential people of the 20th century. First person fiction story about the life of Margaret Sanger. She was outrageous and rubbed a lot of people the wrong way, but she got the job done. Loved it.

One in a Million Boy

By Monica Wood

It will break your heart, but it's excellently done. Keeps you interested the whole time. A lot of it is mysterious in a way. Really great- highly recommended. About an 11 year old boy who's different, and a 104 year old woman who is his friend. Very heartfelt. Takes place in Maine. It grows on you the more you read it.

The Beekeeper's Ball

By Susan Wiggs

Second of a series the first is the apple orchard. The two books intertwine- the first book has a daughter who never knew her father. Banker comes and finds her to tell her her grandfather is in the hospital. She knows nothing about her grandfather. Come to find out he has a big apple orchard/estate. Turns out that a girl he saved I ww2 ended up having an affair with her.

The Seamstress

Sarah Tuvell Burnstein

Memoir about a holocaust survivor originally from Transylvania. She had been sent to Ravensbrook camp in Germany- where a lot of medical experimentation went on. There was a group referred to as the Ravensbrook rabbits. Used for various medical experiments. This woman was not part of the experimentation, but it was a fascinating story. Starts when she's a child before the war. Her father ran a saw mill that mostly employed Jews. There was rioting so all the workers went to her house to hide out. They put the children in another building. Had boiling water to throw at any attackers. Rioting students never show up. but because of this she's used to the idea that because of her heritage life is hard- but she's not meek. Even when awful things are happening she's very much a take charge person and as much as she can be in charge of what's happening to herself she does it. Life affirming.

The History of the Siege of Lisbon

By Jose Saramago

About how history is written- the theme underneath a story of a proof reader in Lisbon Portugal. He was supposed to proofread a history of the siege of Lisbon so tired of always having to make everything accurate. The crusaders came through and the Portuguese asked them to stop and help them throw the Moors out. As he was proof reading he put in that they did not stop because he was so tired of having to make everything correct. They didn't fire him for that- it hadn't gone to print yet so they put in a correction. The woman who was in charge of the proof readers had read some things that he had written and was so impressed with what he wrote she wanted him to write something and that he was capable of fantastic writing. Gave him an assignment to rewrite the history as if the crusaders had not stopped. Very good writer. Has some fantastic images.

Grief is the thing with feather's

By Max Porter

“In a London flat, two young boys face the unbearable sadness of their mother's sudden death. Their father, a Ted Hughes scholar and scruffy romantic, imagines a future of well-meaning visitors and emptiness. In this moment of despair they are visited by Crow - antagonist, trickster, healer, babysitter. This self-described sentimental bird is attracted to the grieving family and threatens to stay until they no longer need him. As weeks turn to months and physical pain of loss gives way to memories, this little unit of three begin to heal.”

Let the Devil Sleep

By John Verdon

In this latest novel from bestselling author John Verdon, ingenious puzzle solver Dave Gurney puts under the magnifying glass a notorious serial murder case – one whose motives have been enshrined as law-enforcement dogma - and discovers that everyone has it wrong.

The Tourist

By Olen Steinhauer

These novels combines good characterization with an investigative plot. The first book is a police procedural and the second is a spy thriller about the CIA.

Being Mortal

By Atul Gawande

The author writes about end-of-life issues, as well as the struggle between modern medicine's focus on prolonging life and patients' needs for quality of life.