

Booklovers Group May 2015

Lianne Moriarty is the author of ***What Alice Forgot***. Have you ever wondered what it might be like to lose the last 10 years of your life? Alice thinks that she is 29 and pregnant with her first child. What she finds is that she is turning 39, has three children and is in the middle of a divorce and custody battle. Surprise! All this stemming from an accident at her spinning class, which caused a concussion. Highly satisfactory for summer reading.

David McCullough tells the story of ***The Wright Brothers***, drawing on the Wright Papers, private diaries, notebooks and thousands of private letters. Also interesting is the story of the support and contributions of their sister Katherine. Highly recommended and a good read.

David Baldacci is the author of many books and the ***Whole Truth*** is one of the better ones. The book is the story of a one percent kind of a guy and philanthropist. The reason he is so wealthy he is the owner of a company that sells warfare materials to countries that need them. In effect he becomes so powerful that he can set up wars just to make a profit. He has agents under his control that can make this a reality. There is also a wonderfully intelligent agent who is trying to deal with this situation and follows the clues to find out what is going on. Well worth the read even if you are not into spy stories, the cultural conditions are fascinating.

The Bartimaeus Sequence is a four book series. The first in the series is the ***Amulet of Samarkand***. This is a story about a young man Nathaniel, a magician's apprentice, who summons up the djinni Bartimaeus and instructs him to steal the Amulet of Samarkand from the powerful magician Simon Lovelace. The wizards rule through different slaves, djinnis and imps, and there is very much an undercurrent that the wizards use slaves to keep the non-magical people in place. So snarky and jaded and sophisticated-the narrative voice is so strong you just keep reading. Positive and entertaining. Young adult fantasy, but adults will also enjoy.

***We will what we Will*** by Jon Potter. Downloaded and read on the telephone! Very interesting story about a high school teacher who gets involved with some strong minded young women. Set in a small town in a town called Saxon Maine. Mr. Finney is a popular high-school teacher and mountain-bike coach - Megan: a student who falls in love with him - but...when Megan is rejected she seeks the power to change him and to eliminate anyone who gets in her way. Set in a little town on the coast of Maine - the host for a group of high-school girls drawn to witchcraft.

***The Children Return*** Bruno Chief of Police by Martin Walker. When an undercover agent tracking domestic jihadists is found murdered, it's troubling enough for Bruno's beloved village. But when this is followed by the return of Sami, a local autistic youth thought lost to Islamic extremism, provincial St. Denis suddenly becomes a front line in the global war on terror. The character is here and who is discovered to be Jewish children. Great series!

Discussion about fairy tales and the Scandinavian tale known as **Slovenly Peter** : of cheerful stories and funny pictures for good little folks. Our reader got this book for his first birthday! Now just over 150 years old, Struwwelpeter (Slovenly Peter) is an unforgettable and morbid collection of stories that show children the horrific outcomes of naughty behavior. This book and the stories have been background and inspiration for many authors over the years.

**The Dinner** by Herman Koch is literary fiction Two brothers, one is gregarious and has a successful business and the other is a bit unpredictable and not sure of his brother who taunts his wealth. How the characters evolve and how you look at them change over time. Two couples meet for dinner in Amsterdam. Behind their polite conversation, terrible things need to be said; each couple has a fifteen-year-old son. The boys are united by their accountability for horrific act that has triggered a police investigation and shattered the worlds of their families. Has many levels-the inner voice of the narrator and problems of the kids and parents and a statement about our contemporary morals.

**What it is like to go to war.** In his memoir, Karl Marlantes relates his combat experiences in Vietnam and discusses the daily contradictions warriors face in the grind of war, where each battle requires them to take life or spare life. He also underscores the need for returning veterans to be counseled properly. His point was that it separates one from society and then dumps people back into society and provides ideas and suggestions on how to help people get back a sense of normalcy.

This brought up a new biography by Yochi Dreaze called **The Invisible Front**: love and loss in an endless war was reviewed by NPR. Sounds like it will be very good.

Yann Martell is the author of **Beatrice and Virgil** which starts out almost autobiographical at first. The story starts with Henry, who had a best seller novel about the holocaust which can also be a flip book. When Henry receives a letter from an elderly taxidermist, it poses a puzzle that he cannot resist. He becomes increasingly involved with the lives of a donkey and a howler monkey--named Beatrice and Virgil--and the epic journey they undertake together. Bizarre book, loved the Life of Pi and wanted to read this book is the story about the holocaust/ is it representational? What is it really about?

**The Flight of the Maidens** by Jane Gardham is the story of three young women which begins in the summer of 1946, a time of clothing coupons and food rations, of postwar deprivations and social readjustment. The women prepare themselves to head off to university and explore the world beyond Yorkshire, England. The most beautiful writing and it's almost like every word she writes you take as truth. Same author of the book, **Old Filth**.