

Booklovers Group January 2015 (really February)

Patrick Taylor Irish Country Doctor series is highly recommended. All the other books are fun and amusing at the end of each novel there is a section by his housekeeper and gives four or five Irish recipes. The series starts off in the 40's and ends up in the late 60's. Because the author is a doctor, the specificity of illness was a bit too much details. Best to read in order, although one of them starts out with the learning process on how to become a doctor.

Where Land Meets Sea, by Claire Leighton. Stories and descriptions of life on Cape Cod. Very good observer. Did her own wood engravings, stories of kettle ponds, capture the essence of life on the Cape.

Robin Hobb, The Assassin's fantasy series, begins with the Assassin's Apprentice. These books have it all, intrigue, drama, well drawn characters, and great action. Duty, sacrifice and the coming of age of young Fitz, whose blood has been marked by magic!

The new Tess Gerritson novel is great. Gerritson writes Die Again bringing back Detective Rizzoli and medical examiner Maura Iles. This latest book in the series is not one to miss. A very gripping story- highly recommended.

Big Little Lies by Lianne Moriarty follows three mothers, each at a crossroads, and their potential involvement in a riot at a school trivia night that leaves one parent dead in what appears to be a tragic accident, but which evidence shows might have been premeditated. Keeps you wanting to find out what happens!

The Light Between Oceans. M.L. Stedman. This is 1920 and Tom comes back and has suffered mentally by the war. He decides that he wants to be a lighthouse keeper at Janice Point, Australia. He decides his purpose is to save lives and prevent disasters. He and wife are unable to have a child. One night a child is washed up from a shipwreck. Should they tell someone or keep the baby? And what of the baby's biological family?

The Miniaturist by Jesse Burton is an interesting look at Holland in the 1600's. This historical fiction finds eighteen year Nella getting married to help settle debts that have pushed her family into dire straits. She does not know her new husband, but must find a way to live this new life. Everyone has secrets. One of the bride's gifts is a cabinet that looks like the interior of her new home and the tradition is to find miniature furniture to fill the cabinet. This is a very repressive society where telling on neighbors to the church elders is the norm.

The Moment of Everything by Shelly King. Takes place present time. Characters in the bookstore and a mystery that is involved and romance. Lovely and funny, we follow Maggie Dupres as she tries to find her way after being fired.

William Lashner is the author of The Bagman. Hysterically funny. The central character is a poorly set up lawyer in Philadelphia. Somebody persuades him to be a bag man in order to get a lot of money. He can take bribes for politician in order to survive. The politicians are just what you expect. Eventually he runs into a group of guys who are also bagmen. They work as a group, so that if someone gets into trouble,

they can see how they can help each other. The Bag Man has murder, sacks full of cash, bad fedoras, and bagmen with their own twisted set of rules

A Stopover in Venice by Katheryn Walker. Art, mystery, relationships and travel to Italy. A woman who is looking for a way to gain perspective on her life and her relationships. Speaks to art and traveling.

Field Notes by Barry Lopez. These are essays and short stories. His language and his perceptions are so incredible. Sums up what it would be like to be in this dry wilderness. The reader highly recommends this book.

Joy for Beginners by Erica Bauermiester. Meeting with her five close friends to celebrate her recovery from cancer, Kate announces that she will take up white-water rafting if each of them will also do something that equally terrifies them.

The Testimony by Anita Shreve. Four young teenagers at a New England boarding school, a sex scandal is about to break. Even more shocking than the sexual acts themselves is the fact that they were caught on videotape.

10% Happier: how I tamed the voice in my head, reduced stress without losing my edge, and found self-help that actually works: a true story by Dan Harris. One of the best chapters is when he is on silent retreat. So funny! About mindfulness and meditation.

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Goldfinch Dana Tart: Loved the language and writing and character development is wonderful. Boris added some character to the book. At the same time he was bad for the kid. The audio is one of the best audios. The cycling back and the intertwining. Most people love the book, some are put off by the length.

A number of picture books were introduced. Black history month and the Right Word by Melissa Sweet and The Case for Loving is the fight for interracial marriage. Chasing Freedom is about Harriett Tubman and Susan B. Anthony. My Name is Truth. Melissa Sweet

Whistling past the Graveyard by Susan Crandall takes place in 1963 in the south. A young white woman is dealing with love and race is involved. Her journey looking where she fits in. This story is seen through the eyes of Starla Claudelle, a nine year old runaway.

The Snow Child by Eowyn Ivey. Alaska, 1920 is especially tough for recent arrivals Jack and Mabel. Childless, they are drifting apart. In a moment of levity during the season's first snowfall, they build a child out of snow. The next morning they glimpse a young girl, Faina, who seems to be a child of the woods. Cabin fever and snow and ice sets the whole tone of surviving tough winters.

Beach Music by Pat Conroy. Historical themes, father daughters the Russian Program. Jack McCall and his daughter live in Rome to find peace after his wife's death. Old friends want his help in tracking down a classmate who went underground as a Vietnam protester. Jack's journey leads him to shocking truths.

Takes place in South Carolina and it is about the friendship of the four main characters. Tells his daughter about his dog Gippy. So many different themes.

All The Light We cannot See by Anthony Dorr. Has so much light and beauty. Parallel stories. When Marie-Laure goes blind her father builds her a model of their neighborhood so she can memorize it to navigate the real streets. In Germany Werner, an orphan, is a master of fixing radios a talent that makes him a highly specialized tracker of the Resistance. Werner and Marie-Laure paths converge. We they are sure that the Nazi's are going to invade, the family flees to the coast. They have nothing and his greatest fear is that he must go down to mines, where his father died. Has all kind of levels of light you cannot see.

Among Thieves by John Clarkson. It was a nice surprise! A lot of the book had some of the same stylistic as Lee Child. Very dramatic, fight scenes and specifically described. Another quality is the central character (a mob boss) is rather a nice guy. Gets involved in a really bizarre situation. Olivia Sanchez started at the bottom and worked her way up the ranks of a brokerage firm only to be fired, then blackballed. With no place else to go, she turns to her cousin, Manny Guzman for help. Manny's first instinct is to hit back. But his partner, Beck, knows that out in the real world, things aren't done that way. But nothing is as simple as it first appears and with too many foes coming at them from too many angles, Beck and his men are going to have to survive against impossible odds, avoid being sent back to prison, and in the process, steal \$116 million dollars.

While Beauty Slept by Elizabeth Blackwell. Retelling of the sleeping story with a great twist at the end. When she hears her great-granddaughter recount a minstrel's tale about a beautiful princess asleep in a tower, it pushes open a door to the past, a door Elise has long kept locked. For Elise was the companion to the real princess who slumbered--and she is the only one left who knows what actually happened so many years ago. Her story unveils a labyrinth where secrets connect to an inconceivable evil.

TS Eliott The Hollow men. Collected Poems. Great Imagery

By the Book from the New York Times are wide-ranging interviews conducted by Pamela Paul, the editor of the The New York Times Book Review, featuring personalities as varied as David Sedaris, Hilary Mantel, Michael Chabon, Khaled Hosseini, Anne Lamott, and James Patterson. These questions and answers admit us into the private worlds of these authors, as they reflect on their work habits.

Lettes of note, compiled by Shaun User. Also Recommended! These are a collection of 125 letters offers a never-before-seen glimpse of the events and people of history--the brightest and the best, the most notorious, and the endearingly everyday.

Book Number Nine of An Irish Country Doctor Series In Peace and War by Patrick Taylor. Shifting deftly between two very different eras, Patrick Taylor's latest Irish Country novel reveals more about O'Reilly's tumultuous past, even as Ballybucklebo faces the future in its own singular fashion.

Second Suns by David Oliver Relin Is the story of a cataract project in Nepal. Due to malnutrition so many of the people who live Nepal have cataracts. This is the story of these doctors set up to help prevent blindness.