

FOOD FOR THOUGHT 2019-2020 READS

SEPTEMBER 5, 2019

Beartown

The Sporting World of our Youth
By Fredrick Backman (F)

People say Beartown is finished. A community deep in the forest, it is losing ground to the encroaching trees. But down by the lake stands an old ice rink, built generations ago by the working men who founded this town. The ice rink is the reason people in Beartown believe tomorrow will be better. Their junior ice hockey team is about to compete in the national semi-finals, and they actually have a shot at winning. The hopes and dreams of this place now rest on the shoulders of a handful of teenage boys. Being responsible for the hopes of an entire town is a heavy burden, and the semi-final match is the catalyst for a violent act that will leave a girl traumatized and a town in turmoil.

OCTOBER 3, 2019

All We Ever Wanted

National Cyber Security Awareness Month
By Emily Giffen (F)

Nina Browning is living the good life after marrying into Nashville's elite. Her husband's tech business is booming, and her adored son, Finch, is bound for Princeton. Tom Volpe is a single dad working multiple jobs. His adored daughter, Lyla, attends Nashville's most prestigious private school on a scholarship. Amid the wealth and privilege, Lyla doesn't always fit in. One devastating photo changes everything. Finch snaps a picture of Lyla passed out at a party, adds a provocative caption, and sends it to a few friends. The photo spreads, and before long, an already divided community is buzzing with and blame.

NOVEMBER 7, 2019

The Only Woman in the Room

Hedy Lamarr - Born November 9, 1914
By Marie Benedict (HF)

Hedy Kiesler is lucky. Her beauty leads to a role in a controversial film and marriage to a Austrian arms dealer, allowing her to evade Nazi persecution despite her Jewish heritage. Hedy is also intelligent. At lavish Vienna dinner parties, she overhears the Third Reich's plans. One night in 1937, desperate to escape her controlling husband and the rise of the Nazis, she disguises herself and flees her husband's castle. She lands in Hollywood, where she becomes Hedy Lamarr, screen star. Hedy has a secret even more shocking than her Jewish heritage: she is a scientist. She has an idea that may help the country....

DECEMBER 5, 2019

No Meeting

JANUARY 2, 2020

The Pecan Man

Working Together
By Cassie Dandridge Selleck (F)

In the summer of 1976, set in a Florida town, recently widowed and childless, Ora Lee Beckworth hires a homeless old black man to mow her lawn. The neighborhood children call him the Pecan Man; their mothers call them inside whenever he appears. When the police chief's son is found stabbed to death near his camp, the man Ora knows as Eddie is arrested and charged with murder. Twenty-five years later, Ora sets out to tell the truth about the Pecan Man. Ora discovers more truth about herself than she could ever have imagined.

FEBRUARY 6, 2020

Everybody Always

♡LOVE♡

By Bob Goff (NF)

In this follow-up to the *New York Times* bestselling *Love Does*, Bob Goff takes readers on a journey into the secret of living without fear, worry, or constraint. The path toward a liberated existence is found in a truth as simple to say as it is hard to do: love people, even the difficult

ones, without distinction and without limits. *Everybody, Always* reveals the lessons Bob learned about what it means to love without inhibition, insecurity, or restriction. From finding the right friends to discovering the upside of failure, this book points the way to love by doing the unexpected, the intimidating, the seemingly impossible. Whether losing his shoes while skydiving solo or befriending a Ugandan witch doctor, Bob steps into life with a no-limits embrace of others.

MARCH 5, 2020

Sharing Memories From Our Charms

The Curious Charms of Arthur Pepper By Phaedra Patrick (F)

Arthur Pepper lives a simple life, eventless since his beloved wife, Miriam, died: same food, same clothes, same daily routine. On the one-year anniversary of her death, something changes. While painfully sorting through her possessions, Arthur finds an exquisite gold charm bracelet he never saw her wear. On the chain are an elephant, a tiger, a book, a heart, a palette, and other charms. Curious, Arthur begins a search for the origin of these trinkets that takes him from New York to London, Paris, and India. Not only is Arthur's life altered, but he learns more about Miriam and the choice she made when she married him.

APRIL 2, 2020

Helen Joy Davidman (Wife of C.S. Lewis)

born April 18, 1915

Becoming Mrs. Lewis By Patti Callahan (HF)

Becoming Mrs. Lewis is a foray into the wilds of faith--from doubt and discovery, to the great adventure of living it out. Patti Callahan's invitation into Joy and Jack's love story is as brilliant as the lives they led. In *Becoming Mrs. Lewis*, Callahan peels back the curtain and allows a glimpse into Joy Davidman's extraordinary life and her love and marriage with C. S. Lewis. With captivating prose, Callahan carries the reader across the ocean from New York to Oxford and into the private heart of this tender love story.

MAY 7, 2020

ALS Awareness Month

Every Note Played By Lisa Genova (F)

An accomplished concert pianist, Richard received standing ovations from audiences all over the world. Richard now has ALS, and his entire right arm is paralyzed. He knows his left arm will go next. Three years ago, Karina removed their wedding picture from the living room wall and hung a mirror there instead. She still hasn't moved on. Karina is paralyzed by excuses and fear, stuck in an unfulfilling life as a piano teacher, afraid to pursue the path she abandoned as a young woman, blaming Richard and their failed marriage for all of it. When Richard becomes paralyzed, no longer able to live on his own, Karina becomes his caretaker.

JUNE 4, 2020

Immigrant Heritage Month

Heads You Win: a Novel By Jeffrey Archer (F)

Leningrad, Russia, 1968. Alexander Karpenko is no ordinary child, and from an early age, it is clear he is destined to lead his countrymen. But when his father is assassinated by the KGB for defying the state, he and his mother will have to escape from Russia, if they hope to survive. At the docks, they are confronted with an choice: should they board a container ship bound for America, or Great Britain? Alexander leaves that choice to the toss of a coin. In a single moment, a double twist decides Alexander's future. An tale of fate and fortune, spanning two continents and 30 years, we follow his triumphs and defeats as he struggles as an immigrant to in his new world. He comes to realize where his destiny lies, and accepts that he must face the past he left behind in Russia.

JULY 2, 2020

Where flowers bloom so does hope.
— Lady Bird Johnson

Memory of Violets A Novel of London's Flower Sellers By Hazel Gaynor (F)

This novel steps into Victorian London, where wealth and poverty exist. It is the story of 2 long-lost sisters, whose lives take different paths, and a woman who is changed by their experiences. In 1912, Tilly Harper leaves the Lake District for London to become assistant housemother at Mr. Shaw's Home for Watercress and Flower Girls. For years, the home has cared for London's flower girls— orphaned children living on streets and selling posies to survive. Tilly finds a diary written by an orphan named Florrie, an Irish flower girl who died of a broken heart after she and her sister, Rosie, were separated. Moved by all Florrie endured, Tilly sets out to discover what happened to Rosie.

AUGUST 6, 2020

The Earth is what we all have in common.
— Wendell Berry

Where the Crawdads Sing

By Delia Owens (F)

For years, rumors of the "Marsh Girl" haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. In late 1969, when Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark, the so-called Marsh Girl. Sensitive and intelligent, Kya has survived for years alone in the marsh that she calls home, finding friends in the gulls and lessons in the sand. The time comes when she yearns to be touched and loved. When two young men from town become intrigued by her beauty, Kya opens herself to a new life—until the unthinkable happens.

SEPTEMBER 3, 2020

World Alzheimer's Day - 9/21

Sweetness of Forgetting

By Kristin Harmel (F)

Hope McKenna-Smith struggles to run the family bakery on Cape Cod after her divorce with her preteen daughter, Annie, and a grandmother, Rose, who has Alzheimer's. Rose—in a rare moment of lucidity—gives Hope a list of 7 relatives whom she last saw in WWII-era France, and begs her to track them down. Urged by Annie, Hope abandons the bakery and jets to Paris. She unearths family secrets, and comes face to face with the people and places of her grandmother's past. This is a tale of generations struggling to survive. Recipes sprinkled throughout the book allow readers to experience the sweetness of Hope's journey.

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