



Book Club Staff Recommendation Night 2016

Books are listed alphabetically by author's last name.

A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman (2015)

Fiction, Paperback \$15.99

Meet Ove: a grumpy old curmudgeon that people would call “the bitter neighbour from hell”. In a delightfully quirky debut novel from Sweden, I will challenge you NOT to fall in love with Ove. For Ove, everything must be done one way, and one way only: perfectly. When a very strange family disrupts his attempts to “get on” with his attempt to find oblivion, Ove is not happy. Backman skillfully blends a story of sadness into a thoughtful, charming exploration of the profound impact one life can have on countless others. (Mike)

My Grandmother Sends Her Regards and Apologies by Fredrik Backman (2014)

Fiction, Paperback, \$22.99

Elsa and her Grandmother are inseparable. They live across the hall from each other and have a special bond that often drives the adults in their lives crazy. Like all grandmothers, Elsa's has had a full life well beyond the world that Elsa knows. To help her understand more about her life, her grandmother sets up a treasure hunt that will introduce Elsa to a side of her grandmother she could never know. (Michelle)

The Paris Architect by Charles Belfour (2013)

Fiction, Paperback, \$20.99

In Nazi occupied Paris, the architect Lucien worries about survival, making money, and growing his reputation. He splits his life into designing hiding places for Jews, and building commissions for the Germans. (Cynthia)

The Readers of Broken Wheel Recommend by Katarina Bivald (2015)

Fiction, Paperback, \$17.95

Sara lives in Sweden and her entire working life has been in a bookstore, When the store closes, she decides to take up her literary pen-pal Amy's invitation to visit in Broken Wheel, Iowa. She arrives on the day of Amy's funeral.....now what? (Sandy)

The Secret Chord by Geraldine Brooks (2016)

Fiction, Hardcover, \$33.50

As a child Natan prophesied David's rise to become the King of Israel. Now he tells David's story as seen through the eyes of those who know him best, revealing his passions, his triumphs, and his mistakes. (Cynthia)

The Trouble with Goats and Sheep by Joanna Cannon (2016)

Fiction, Paperback, \$22.99

British. Grace and Tilly are young girls, best friends, living on The Avenue. When Mrs. Creasy disappears, they decide to investigate. What they don't know is that there are more "grown-up" secrets and undercurrents than they could possibly imagine. (Sandy)

Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates (2015)

Biography, Hardcover, \$31.00

This slim volume (159 pages) is a letter from Coates to his 15 year old son in which he asks the question "...how do I live free in this black body?" He traces his life journey from the violent streets of Baltimore, through high school and on to Howard University where his questions are tested and refined - the intransigence of racial injustice in the United States and its link to the American Dream. His anger is palpable when an unarmed college friend is gunned down by a police officer. (Irene)

The Mountaintop School for Dogs and Other Second Chances by Ellen Cooney (2014)

Fiction, Paperback, \$20.95

Evie lied to get the job at the sanctuary; she knew nothing about dogs. She had no idea what horrors can happen to dogs, how dogs struggle to survive, or how dogs could rescue her. (Cynthia)

Drawing Blood by Molly Crabapple (2015)

Biography, Hardcover, \$36.99

"This is the story of a girl and her sketchbook" is the final sentence in the preface to this imaginative, fierce and honest account of Molly Crabapple's first 32 years. Evolving from a rebellious goth teenager, to young traveler living at Shakespeare and Company in Paris, nude model, burlesque dancer, and house artist at a decadent Manhattan night club, she finds her voice as a political artist. Her passion for her art shouts from the pages, many of which include her sketches and illustrations. (Irene)

A Slight Trick of the Mind by Mitch Cullin (2005)

Fiction, Paperback, \$18.00

Sherlock Holmes is 93 and has been looking after his bees for the past 45 years. He is very much the crusty old man, but has a unique relationship with the young son of his new housekeeper who is teaching to care for the hives. Very much a book about memory and memories; how they change with time and how we change them to suit our purposes. The basis for the movie *Mr. Holmes* starring Ian McKellan. (Michelle)

Not My Father's Son by Alan Cumming (2014)

Biography, Paperback, \$19.99

In his own inimitable voice, star of stage and screen Alan Cumming explores his complicated relationship with his father and the secrets that are revealed when Alan agrees to appear on the celebrity genealogy show *Who Do You Think You Are?* (Judith)

Outline by Rachel Cusk (2015)

Fiction, Paperback, \$19.99

A woman travels to Athens to teach a writing workshop and over the course of a week narrates the stories of the people she encounters. She is not a passive listener but over the course of the book reveals very little of her own life. Is this an unusual novel or just a series of linked conversations or vignettes? (Irene)

Ablutions by Patrick DeWitt (2009)

Fiction, Paperback, \$16.95

Patrick DeWitt's first novel. The one nobody knows about. Told in pure second person POV, this novel is about "you", a bartender working in a Los Angeles dive bar. *Ablutions* is a blackly hilarious and depraved story of addiction, ennui, rigid routines, bad habits, and finding common ground with the most unlikely of people. (Sarah)

UnderMajorDomo Minor by Patrick DeWitt (2015)

Fiction, Hardcover \$32.00 (Paperback expected September 2016)

Lucien (Lucy) Minor is bored. He travels to a castle owned by a Baron who doesn't seem to be around. Lucy's job is to help the Major Domo 'run' the castle. The castle may be inhabited by two or three people. It may or may not be in Europe. Don't even think about WHEN this might all be happening. We know there is a war, a forlorn woman, some very raunchy group sex and a very big hole somewhere. What else do you need? (Mike)

Do You Think This is Strange? by Aaron Cully Drake (2015)

Fiction, Paperback \$17.95

Freddy is a seventeen year old autistic boy struggling to "get along" in the world. The Canadian author, whose daughter is autistic, has created a powerfully realistic account of a lovable but troubled boy whose mother disappeared when he was just seven years old. *Do You Think This is Strange?* will keep you enthralled from the start to a very thrilling and shocking finish. (Mike)

Don't Panic: Isis, Terror and Today's Middle East by Gwynne Dyer, (2015)

History, Paperback, \$22.00

A very clear, concise and easy to read look at what is happening today in the Middle East and how the history of the region has contributed to the current situation. (Michelle)

The Danish Girl by David Ebershoff (2000)

Fiction, Paperback, \$21.00

What would you do if your spouse had to change? Inspired by the remarkable life of Lili Elbe, one of the first people in history to receive gender reassignment surgery, Ebershoff has blended fact and fiction into an intimate, tender portrait of a marriage. (Judith)

The Green Road by Ann Enright (2015)

Fiction, Paperback, \$21.00

This book traces the coming of age choices of four siblings growing up in County Clare, Ireland beginning in 1980 when Dan announces he is going to be a priest. Over the next 25 years we follow their lives as they leave home for such far flung places as New York and Segou, Mali. They return to their mother's house for Christmas in 2005 with all its attendant rituals. A masterful telling of family complexity and expectations with a few surprises thrown in. (Irene)

This is Your Life, Harriet Chance by Jonathan Evison (2015)

Fiction, Paperback, \$21.99

Harriet Chance, recently widowed, discovers among her late husband's effects, tickets for an Alaskan cruise. A surprise for her, she thinks, and decides to use them, inviting her best friend along. This is when she discovers that she really doesn't know as much about her life as she thinks she knows. (Sandy)

Where My Heart Used to Be by Sebastian Faulks (2015)

Fiction, Hardcover \$34.00

Psychiatrist, Robert Hendricks is drawn to an isolated Mediterranean island at the behest of a stranger. Hendricks is intrigued by the possibility of an elderly man who may have information about Hendricks father. Using a backdrop of WW1 and WW2, the two men confront their demons while exploring the meaning of love. How does love shape us? How does it confine or control our lives? With Faulks's latest novel, there is insight into the human mind and soul that will leave you virtually breathless. (Mike)

Road Trip Rwanda: A Journey into the New Heart of Africa by Will Ferguson (2015)

Travel, Hardcover, \$34.00

Will Ferguson and his friend Jean-Claude Munyezamu travel about Rwanda, marvelling at the rebirth of the nation after its horrific war. Will's humour nicely offsets Jean-Claude's memories. (Cynthia)

Experimental Film by Gemma Files (2015)

Fiction, Paperback, \$19.99

Immersed in the culture of the Canadian film industry, critic Lois Cairns digs through reels of volatile silver nitrate stock and explores the backwoods of Northern Ontario while investigating the unexplained disappearance of Iris Whitcomb, one of Canada's first film makers. In doing so Lois discovers eerie similarities between her life and that of her subject. Gemma Files weaves a story of relentless dread, layered with thematic explorations of motherhood, the politics of diversity, and what it means to make a human connection through art. (Sarah)

Sage of Waterloo by Leona Francombe (2015).

Fiction, Hardcover, \$27.95

William grows up on the farm of Hougoumont near Waterloo and learns the history of the great battle from his grandmother. Old Lavender is very wise and can feel the history and spirits of all the dead. Of all of her grandchildren, she finds William to be the most receptive to her lessons. Great re-telling of important historical events. (Michelle)

That Awful Mess on the Via Merulana, by Carlo Emilio Gadda, trans from Italian by William Weaver (1957 - Italian / 1965 - English)

Mystery, Paperback \$23.50

Gadda's 1957 novel *That Awful Mess on the Via Merulana* is a glorious mess and, in this way, about as Italian as literature gets. Detective Ingravello is tasked with solving a murder case and a burglary that occurred in the same building. Set in Mussolini's Rome, the cases elude clear interpretation with hilarious ramifications. This book offers you a working familiarity with all of Rome's seediest back alleys and streets, and is a clear must-read for any avid mystery fan. (Justin)

American Gods by Neil Gaiman (2001)

Fantasy, Paperback, \$10.99

Newly released from prison, Shadow Moon just wants to return home to his wife, but before they can be reunited, she dies in an accident. On the flight to the funeral, Shadow meets a mysterious man known as Mr. Wednesday. Bringing together the myths and legends brought to America by its myriad immigrant populations, *American Gods* is part road trip, part history lesson and all adventure. (Judith)

Fever at Dawn by Péter Gárdos, trans. from Hungarian by Elizabeth Szász. (2015)

Fiction, Hardcover, \$25.00

It is spring 1945 and Miklós Gárdos, aged 25, has survived Bergen-Belsen. On his way to Sweden for medical help, he is told he has six months to live. He has incurable tuberculosis. In response he starts writing letters to all 117 of the female Hungarians in Swedish hospitals. His intention; marriage. (Michelle)

Memory of Violets by Hazel Gaynor

Fiction, Paperback \$18.50

An amazing story set in Victorian England, this describes the life in general of the very poor and how they survived, as well as a story about two sisters who lose each other in the slums. It is told from the perspective of a young woman who, years after the tragedy, discovers a diary written by one of the sisters involved.

The story reflects two close but separate time periods, allowing much discussion about what changed over the years and what didn't. There are parallels to contemporary society as well. (Susan)

The Little Paris Bookshop by Nina George, translated from French by Simon Pare (2015)
Fiction, Paperback, \$22.00

Jean Perdu, owner of the book barge “The Literary Apothecary”, prescribes books to heal his customers. After reading the letter he hid for twenty years, Perdue, completely unprepared, unmoors the barge, and sails down the Seine to face what he has denied. (Cynthia)

I, Claudius, by Robert Graves (1934)
Fiction, Paperback \$18.00

When Derek Jacobi and Brian Blessed took to the small screen in the BBC's 1976 TV adaptation of *I, Claudius*, audience's around the world found in early imperial Rome the sort of drama normally exclusive the raciest soap-opera. *I, Claudius* is a fictional diary of Rome's fourth emperor, Tiberius Claudius. Physically disabled and reviled by even his mother, Claudius nurtures a brilliant wit and vehement oratory that eventually makes him master of Europe. Whether fighting the British, the Jews, or a terminally unfaithful wife, Claudius is one of historical fiction's most compelling protagonists. (Justin)

The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu and Their Race to Save the World's Most Precious Manuscripts by Joshua Hammer (2016)

History, Hardcover, \$35.00

For centuries Timbuktu was at the cross-roads of northern African trade routes. It was also a centre of scholarship and the depository for thousands of illuminated manuscripts, both religious and secular. With the rise of Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), all of this written history was threatened. Enter the “Librarians”. (Michelle)

The Library at Mount Char by Scott Hawkins (2015)
Fiction, Paperback, \$22.00

A group of orphans are raised in a nondescript suburban home called the Library, by a sadistic mentor they refer to as “Father”. The kids are trained as Librarians, each having expertise in a specific Catalogue of knowledge and power. When Father (possibly God) goes missing, one legwarmer-wearing Librarian must use all her skill to keep her siblings from using their power to throw our world into chaos. This urban fantasy is gleefully original and literary in its exploration of family dysfunction and the choice we all face between the desire to be what we want to be, and the responsibility we have to be what others need us to be. (Sarah)

Walking the Woods and Water: in Patrick Leigh Fermor's Footsteps from the Hook of Holland to the Golden Horn by Nick Hunt (2014)

Travel, Paperback, \$29.50

A wonderful follow-up to the Patrick Leigh Fermor trilogy about his trip across Europe in the mid 1930s. Having read Leigh Fermor as a teen, Hunt decides he will retrace his steps from the Hook of Holland to Istanbul. He sets out on his journey exactly 78 years after Leigh Fermor and finds a Europe that is physically very different, but in many ways has not changed at all. (Michelle)

A Brief History of Seven Killings by Marlon James (2014)

Fiction, Paperback, \$22.00

Political instability, gang wars, drug smuggling, and an assassination attempt on Bob Marley in 1970's Jamaica. This novel won the 2015 Booker Prize and it's not an easy read. An almost plotless, voice driven, dialect heavy, hideously violent novel told from the viewpoint of a dozen characters. *A Brief History* does nothing to welcome you into its pages, but I'm recommending it because there's value in reading tough books that immerse us in experiences radically different from our own and make us earn our understanding of it. (Sarah)

Three Men in a Boat (To Say Nothing of the Dog) by Jerome K. Jerome (1889)

Fiction, Paperback, \$15.00

J. and his two friends George and Harris - and Montmorency the fox terrier - take a boating holiday by rowing up the Thames. What follows is sheer lunacy masquerading as everyday life. An interesting glimpse into the late Victoria period. (Michelle)

Be Frank with Me by Julia Clairborne Johnson (2016)

Fiction, Paperback, \$22.99

Alice Whitley has been sent to ensure the timely delivery of literary darling M.M. Banting's first new book in decades. On her arrival she finds herself made full-time companion to Frank, Banting's wonderfully precocious nine-year-old who is obsessed with Old Hollywood, dresses like Fred Astaire and is as accident-prone as Buster Keaton. A charming debut novel. (Judith)

Descent by Tim Johnston (2015)

Fiction, Paperback, \$23.95

Two teenagers go for a run. Only one returns. Caitlin's disappearance launches the reader into the spellbinding tale of a family's grief and confusion as they struggle to cope with the loss of their daughter. A literary thriller, *Descent* is a gut wrenching story and a great piece of writing. (Mike)

The Hippos Were Boiled in Their Tanks by Jack Kerouac and William S. Burroughs (2008)

Fiction, Paperback, \$23.50

How do you put down a novel that begins with two men in a New York flat, eating broken glass simply because they're drunk and bored? Set long before these authors emerged as literary icons of the Beat Generation, they become accomplices after the fact when their friend murders his older benefactor and rumoured lover. *Hippos* is such a strange book, certainly not an example of either author's best work, but it's a unique artifact, a piece of art not meant to be separated from the artist. Fans of the Beats will love it. (Sarah)

Audrey's Door by Sarah Langan (2009)

Fiction, Paperback, \$10.99

A novel that uses a bizarre architectural style known as Chaotic Naturalism as a metaphor for mental illness. Audrey moves into an apartment in the Breviary, a building of unstable

construction and history, completely free of right angles, and completely full of old ghosts. Audrey loves her new home but has strange dreams where a man playing a piano suggests she build a door. Sarah Langan has a gift for using the supernatural to expose the all too real horrors of every day life. (Sarah)

We Were Liars by E. Lockhart (2014)

Fiction, Hardcover, \$19.99

Things have changed since the last summer Cadence was at the island. She doesn't know why Grandfather's house is new, or why her aunt cries, or where the dogs are, or why she can't remember. (Cynthia)

History's People: Personalities and the Past by Margaret MacMillan (2015)

History, Hardcover, \$24.95 (Paperback expected September 2015)

A transcription of the 2015 CBC Massey Lectures by renowned historian Margaret MacMillan in which she provides a personal view of leaders, risk-takers, explorers and adventurers and observers who document their times. The examples she provides include well known historical figures as well as more obscure people. A thoroughly engaging "history lesson" from a master storyteller. (Irene)

Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel (2014)

Fiction, Paperback, \$21.99

It started with one person infected, and the resulting pandemic took 99% of the world's peoples. Twenty years later, survivors exist in a stone age, haunted by memories. (Cynthia)

Bone Clocks by David Mitchell (2014)

Fiction, Paperback, \$22.00

Long listed for the 2015 Booker Prize, this literary science-fiction/fantasy novel is a collection of six linked novellas that follow Holly Sykes throughout different points in her life as she becomes embroiled in a battle between two immortal factions that has raged below the line of human sight for millennia. This is science fiction and fantasy for literary types. Mitchell takes the what if, and all too plausibly transforms it into what is. (Sarah)

Flannery by Lisa Moore (2016)

Fiction, Hardcover, \$18.95

Everybody is letting Flannery down. Tyrone seems to be ditching the partners' project, Amber has forgotten whom her best friend is, and even her mother can't get it together to buy the Biology book. (Cynthia)

Unclean Jobs for Women and Girls by Alissa Nutting (2011)

Fiction, Paperback, \$26.50

In this bizarre short story collection, Nutting has a way of taking the reader to a place that's both completely new and uncomfortably familiar. Whether it's a world where human beings are

expected to share their living bodies with insect colonies, or a dozen people simmering in a giant cauldron, pondering the circumstances that brought them there, a universal question is being asked. For all its strangeness and implausibility, this quirky collection delivers some unflinching truths. (Sarah)

Creatures of the Rock by Andrew Peacock (2014)

Biography, Paperback \$21.00

Memoirs of a vet in Newfoundland. Loving stories about the people and animals he met, and a tribute to Peacock's adoptive home. This book was nominated for the Stephen Leacock award, and is a great book club read for people needing something a bit lighter than usual. (Susan)

The Jesus Cow by Michael Perry (2015)

Fiction, Hardcover \$31.99 (Paperback expected May 2016)

What do you do when your new-born calf has the image of Jesus clearly marked on its coat? A humorous book that examines faith in our modern world. Add in an environmentalist with secrets, and women in trucks, and you have a wonderfully funny yet satisfying read.

Sneezingcow.com's review captures the writing style perfectly: "blends the barbed charm of Garrison Keillor, the irreverent humour of Christopher Moore, and the audacious insight of Chuck Klosterman". (Susan)

Somewhere in France by Jennifer Robson (2013)

Fiction, Paperback, \$17.99

At the beginning of WWI, a free-spirited wealthy young woman flees her comfortable family estate to build a new life in London. In time, she becomes an ambulance driver in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corp and ends up serving in France where she is reunited with her brother's friend, a Scottish surgeon. This novel describes their lives and relationships and the erosion of class distinctions over the course of the war. (Irene)

Mathematician's Shiva by Stuart Rojstaczer (2014)

Fiction, Paperback, \$21.00

Rachaela Karnokovitch, the greatest female mathematician of her generation has died. Her friends in the world of Mathematics descend on her house to sit Shiva with her son and estranged husband convinced that she has solved the Navier-Stokes proof. Darkly funny in its depictions of her son wanting to quietly honour his mother while mayhem reigns with the Mathematicians. (Michelle)

Lily and the Octopus by Steven Rowley (2016)

Fiction, Paperback, \$22.00 (Publication expected July 2016)

Lily is a dachshund, Ted is her owner and boon companion, the octopus is the cancerous growth on her head. This is the story of their past, their present, and his future. (Sandy)

Quantum Night by Robert J. Sawyer (2016)

Science Fiction, Hardcover \$30.00

Full disclosure: I'm not a fan of science fiction and haven't read ALL of *Quantum Night*. It doesn't matter. The latest from the Hugo and Nebula award-winning author addresses the intricacies of human nature. The story focuses on an experimental psychologist who has developed a foolproof method for detecting psychopathy. Fantastic story with great plot twists.

Martin John by Anakana Schofield (2015) Fiction, Paperback, \$19.95

"*Flashing is a very angry act...*" Shortlisted for the 2015 Giller Prize, Martin John is a comic, manic, and terrifying exploration of psychosis set in London, where Martin John struggles with roommates, faithfully records episodes of Eurovision, regularly phones his mother, and falls through the cracks of the system. (Sarah)

Adam by Ariel Schrag (2014)

Fiction, Paperback, \$19.95

Seventeen year old Adam is in love, but then discovers his dream girl is a lesbian and she's only going out with him because she thinks he's trans. Not wanting to lose her, he goes along with the fiction and in doing so the reader is pulled along through an absurd, and poignant journey where socially correct ideals sort of fall apart within the reality of the LGBT community. (Sarah)

The Summer Before the War by Helen Simonson (2016)

Fiction, Hardcover \$35.00

This is the first book by Helen Simonson since *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand*. Set in a village in England during the summer of 1914, it describes a time of upheaval in British society. Nothing was more indicative of this than the hiring of a female Latin teacher for the young men heading off to higher education. A gentle, yet thoughtful examination of a time of quiet before unimagined horrors. Helen Humphreys fans will like the writing style. Lots of topics for discussion! (Susan)

Fishbowl by Bradley Somer (2015)

Fiction, Paperback, \$19.99

Ian, the goldfish, in his free fall from the 27th floor, peering into the lives of the residents of the Seville Apartments as he passes. Characters and stories converge and parallel each other. (Cynthia)

Stalin's Daughter by Rosemary Sullivan (2015)

Biography, Paperback, \$24.99

A captivating and comprehensive biography of Sventlana Alliluyeva that skillfully chronicles not only the life of a complex woman but also the times in which she lived and the infamy and crimes of her father. We see photos and read letters. We are privy to her love affairs and feel the intrigue and danger as she defects to the United States in 1967. (Irene)

The Best Place on Earth by Ayelet Tsabari (2015)

Short Stories, Paperback \$16.99

This is a debut collection which is global in scope, beautifully written and emotionally powerful. The stories are set between Canada and Israel, and the characters struggle with love, violence, faith and the challenges of balancing old traditions with modern times. Each is an insightful gem. (Sue)

Medea and Her Children by Ludmilla Ulitskaya, translated from Russian by Arch Tait (2002)

Fiction, Paperback, \$21.00

Medea is the last full-blooded Greek living in the Crimea after the Stalinist expulsions. Childless and the mother of 13 children herself, she has become the matriarch of her family now scattered throughout the republics of the former Soviet Union. From May to August these family members visit Medea each group bringing their own story. (Michelle)

In Daddy Lenin & Other Stories by Guy Vanderhaeghe (2015)

Short Stories, Paperback, \$19.99

Vanderhaeghe is returning to a form that won him two GGs. This collection is solid enough to be a “contender” for any major prize this year. These new tales have complex characters, vivid descriptions and masterful pacing. In short, its a cracking good read. (Sue)

Chinese Gold Murders by Robert van Gulik (1979)

Mystery, Paperback \$17.50

Robert Van Gulik was a Dutch ambassador to China, who wanted to write books that spoke to the heart of Chinese culture as he saw it. He blended traditional folk stories with his own style, and developed the Judge Dee series. The books are an interesting look at a legal system based on very different premises from ours, yet show the need for justice is a cross-cultural need. Although van Gulik was not writing about contemporary China, some of the roots of China’s modern society are shown clearly.

This is the first book of the series, which is being reprinted with elegant new covers. They are fun for mystery readers who love reading about other cultures, and have lots of discussion topics for people concerned about Canada’s legal system. (Susan)

The Prison Book Club by Ann Walmsley

Biography, Hardcover, \$29.95 (Paperback expected September 2016)

Journalist Walmsley recounts her 18-month experience as a volunteer with the Toronto-based charity Book Club for Inmates, primarily at Collins Bay Penitentiary near Kingston. Her role included suggesting titles, attending discussions and meeting with individual inmates. One of the strengths of the book is the insightful views of the men on familiar titles. The book is all the more remarkable given Walmsley’s mugging by two assailants outside her house while living in London eight years earlier. (Irene)

The Martian by Andy Weir (2014)

Science Fiction, Paperback \$18.00

After being forced to evacuate their landing site, one of the six astronauts is left for dead on Mars. With no way to signal earth that he survived, it is simply a matter of time for Mark Watney. Nevertheless, he deploys a battery of resourceful techniques designed to maintain “life support” in an effort to provide information to those who locate his bones a decade or so later. Having started *The Martian* just to see what “all the fuss was about”, I couldn’t put it down. It is a thrilling survival story with a plot based on real science. I loved the voice of the main character who is a funny, deadpanning, self-deprecating smart ass. (Mike)

A Year of Marvellous Ways by Sarah Winman (2015)

Fiction, Paperback \$19.99

Every now and then you come across a book so beautifully written that you simply can’t stop reading. Winman’s elegant prose brings us into the life of ninety-year-old Marvellous Ways and her unlikely friendship with Drake, a soldier broken by war trying to fulfill dying man’s last wish. (Judith)

A Little Life by Hanya Yanagihara (2015)

Fiction, Paperback, \$22.00

Shortlisted for the 2015 Booker Prize and by far my top pick. A dark fairytale-ish story set in a perpetually millennial New York City, *A Little Life* follows 25 years of friendship between four men, including Jude, a brilliant litigator with physical handicaps and a deeply traumatic history he hides from his friends. It is one of the best books I’ve ever read but make no mistake, *A Little Life* straps you to the front of the feels train and roars at top speed into a dark tunnel.

To quote the Morning News Tournament of books “I personally think it’s probably better if you don’t read *A Little Life*, but then when have any of us been able to stop people from hurting themselves?” (Sarah)

Owl’s Nest Books
815A 49th Avenue SW
Calgary, Alberta T2S 1G8
403.287.9557 | contact@owlsnestbooks.com
owlsnestbooks.com