



2023 Reading Challenge

# SEPTEMBER

A book by an  
author with your  
first or last name

A reader from Beverly read *The Music of Dolphins* by Karen Hesse: "I love how Hesse changes not only the style & content but also the font size to show the main character's "progress" and "regression." It asks the question: if we are helping someone "for their own good," is that really what we should be doing? My students loved it."

A reader from Granby read *Ice* by Linda Howard: "It was very good. I finished the book in one night. Very exciting, you didn't want to put it down."

A reader from Attleboro read *Beyond the Wand: Growing up a Wizard* by Tom Felton: "It was interesting to learn about Tom's life outside of Harry Potter and to connect with him as a person outside of a character."

A reader from Guyton read *Brutal Prince* by Sophie Lark: "It was ok. I liked the strawberry aspect, but I thought it would be more thrilling."

A reader from Plymouth read *Maame* by Jessica Gordon: "Quick and easy read."

A reader from northampton read *Cornell book of herbs and edible flowers* by Jeanne Mackin: "Compacted and very useful and complete book of many herbs and edibles end of book. A lot of pictures history, how to plant, drying, harvesting, layering, division. Recipes and more. NEED more of these books. Thanks for Bushnell sage library only one in system."

A reader from Amherst read *The Performance of Being Human* by Daniel Borzutzky: "A collection of dystopian, post apocalyptic musings, this poetry book explores themes like migration, violence, late capitalism, nations, and borders. Keeping it all together, there's a keen eye on the body that's neither sensual, nor clinical, with constant references to mouths, members, and organs."

A reader from Boylston read *The Cabin at The End of the World* by Paul Tremblay: "What should we choose to believe and how should it impact our lives? This story poses that question and causes you to consider how each character interprets perceived truths and connections that ultimately change the course of their life."

A reader from Danvers read *Dark corners* by Cindy Pain: "I'm trying to understand poetry. Here the poems are short and clear."

A reader from Melrose read *Fireworks Every Night* by Beth Raymer: "A debut novel with humor and very good prose, but a little weak on plot and construction. I do look forward to further novels by this writer."

A reader from Spencer read *The Sacred Bones* by Michael Byrnes: "It was readable I guess. The female supposed main character appeared to only be there for her amazing beauty (mentioned everytime she met a new man) and for someone the men could explain things to. She was supposed to be a leading expert in her field and seemed only to follow the lead of others through the entire story."

A reader from South Hadley read *Facing the Mountain: A True Story of Japanese American Heroes in World War II* by Daniel James Brown: "I've gained a finer appreciation not just those who fight for our country, but also those who fight against it on its own behalf."

A reader from Hamilton read *Nomadland* by Jessica Bruder: "I met the author at a conference and enjoyed her keynote presentation. The audiobook was ok, I wish she read it. Interesting life they lead."

A reader from Wilbraham read *The Downstairs Neighbor* by Helen Cooper: "Too chaotic. Short chapters which can be a good thing. Each from a different character's POV. In addition, non linear timeline. Interesting characters but too hard to follow."

A reader from Fall River read *The Watchmaker's Daughter* by Dianne Haley: "I thought this book was ... okay. Not terrible, but I wouldn't give it the five stars most reviewers gave it. The story

was pretty good and there was a lot of suspense and action at the end, but I found the characters rather flat and the writing not very exciting.”

A reader from Dracut read *The Pushcart War* by Jean Merrill: “It wasn't bad. When I started I did wonder if it was a true story because it read as one, so I looked it up. Fiction. I enjoyed it and didn't realize until I was done that it is a book for adolescents.”

A reader from New Bedford read *Something Terrible Happened* by Barbara Ann Porte: “This youth fiction book was a wonderful powerful story with international fables blended in. I highly recommend this book.”

A reader from Lowell read *The Heart Principal* by Helen Hoang: “Honestly didn't think I would like this book and would never have picked it up if it wasn't for this challenge.. but I actually loved it! I finished this book in 2 days! I usually don't go towards contemporary romance novels, but now I may have found a new favorite genre. I will be reading Hoang's books as well.”

A reader from Weymouth read *The Diva Takes The Cake* by Krista Davis: “Fun cozy mysteries with recipes. Sophie Wilson and a lovable cast of characters find murder victims. You want to read more in the series because Davis has made her characters so likeable.”

A reader from Hudson read *We Should All Be Feminists* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: “A concise yet poignant call for action to affect change in our culture for greater gender equality. Short personal stories from the author are effective at furthering the reality that gender equality has not yet been achieved today.”

A reader from Attleboro read *The Grave Robber's Apprentice* by Allan Stratton: “Combines elements of fairy tales, Romeo and Juliet, Hamlet, Macbeth, All's Well That Ends Well, As You Like It, Pinocchio, Robin Hood, and more in an exciting, old-country, high-energy adventure story of an orphan boy who does not know he is royalty, a spunky princess, an evil archduke, an undead necromancer, a grave robber, hermits, a traveling circus with friendly dancing bears, kind-hearted highwaymen, a secret-passage-riddled castle, a cemetery and catacombs, a mad house, witch-burning, disguises, and narrow escapes.”

A reader from WORCESTER read *THE BABY THIEF* by BARBARA BISANTZ RAYMOND: “THIS WAS AN EXTREMELY EMOTIONALLY DRAINING BOOK TO READ, ESPECIALLY SINCE IT IS A TRUE STORY. GEORGIA TANN, THE ACTUAL BABY THIEF, CAUSED SO MUCH PAIN TO CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES THAT IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE THAT SHE WAS ABLE TO INFLICT THIS PAIN FOR SO MANY YEARS WITH THE AID OF POLITICIANS, JUDGES, AND SOCIAL WORKERS.”

A reader from Abington read *Arcadia* by Tom Stoppard: “Loved it. First published 1993. Read it then and saw the play in Boston. Great to re-read it. Discusses relationship between past & present, classicism vs. romanticism with some very clever interplay between events taking place in the same manor house in 1809 and in the present day (1993). Brings in mathematics, physics, literature... Much of it over my head but really enjoyed it.”

A reader from Abington read *The Holy Sinner* by Thomas Mann: “Loved it. Great storytelling and characters. Based on Medieval epic verse, Gregorius, by Hartmann von Aue (c 1165 - 1210). Explores nature of evil, forgiveness and original sin. Originally published 1951. ”

A reader from Malden read *Bitches Ride Alone* by Laura Chester: “The book is in 3 parts. I found the first section about her experiences as a teenager rather interesting. The second and third parts re her adulthood were not as enjoyable.”

A reader from Greenfield read *A Prayer for the Crown Shy* by BECKY CHAMBERS: “This is the 2nd in the monk and robot series just as well written as the first. A very philosophical sci fi novel.”

A reader from Sunderland read *Lost Boy Found* by Kirsten Alexander: “Prepare to be heartbroken, angry, and frustrated, but also enjoy this author's deft and engaging writing style.”

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Call Us What We Carry* by Amanda Gorman: “Call Us What We Carry is a beautiful, insightful, and thought-provoking poetry collection concerning the COVID-19 pandemic, race, and social justice. The audio version, narrated by the author, is especially impactful.”

A reader from Dracut read *The Saints of Swallow Hill* by Donna Everhart: “I really enjoyed how the author developed the characters. You know this was their story of trauma, endurance, and victory. ”

A reader from South Hadley read *That's What She Said: Wise Words from Influential Women* by Joy, Kimothy: “Some of the quotes were classics and some were new to me, and I liked the bios. I would've liked to see more representation from disabled folks, indigenous folks, and trans women, however.”

A reader from Yarmouth Port read *Welcome to Beach Town* by Susan Wiggs: “This book did not resonate for me. Unlikely that such a confident high school valedictorian could make a speech that dared to tell the truth about an incident where her friend died and then make such poor decisions in her personal life. ”

A reader from WAKEFIELD read *The Blue Scorpion* by Julia Lieber: “I got a real kick out of seeing my complete birth name as the author of a published book...the story: not so much.”

A reader from Melrose read *The bear and the nightingale* by Katherine arden: “Wonderful interpretation of a Russian folk tale.”

A reader from Attleboro read *The Truth Will Set You Free, But First It Will Piss You Off!* by Gloria Steinem: “This is both beautifully illustrated and a delight to read. Published in 2019, it is a compilation of Ms. Steinem’s most famous, humorous and wise quotes and essays.”

A reader from Hudson read *The Girl Who Reads on the Metro* by Christine Féret-Fleury: "Amazing! What a beautiful book for book lovers."

A reader from Dartmouth read *My Venice and other Essays* by Donna Leon: "Entertaining essays."

A reader from Forestdale read *The Wind Done Gone* by Alice Randall: "A slaves side of the story. A parody of *Gone With the Wind*."

A reader from Westborough read *Now You See Me* by S J Bolton: "A Jack-the-Ripper copycat in modern day London? First book in a series? What is not to love?"

A reader from Braintree read *The Fourth Wall* by Barbara Paul: "Set in the world of NYC theater in the 1970's, this mystery is deeper than many crime novels/ police procedurals that I have read. Kudos to the author for weaving aspects of the inner workings of the theater industry into the piece. An aside...it was fun finding an author whose first name is the same as mine and whose surname is the same as my husband's first name. "

A reader from Blackstone read *The Unfinished Work of Elizabeth D* by Nichole Bernier: "Share maiden name Bernier with author. The book had an interesting plot idea but it fell a bit short."

A reader from West Yarmouth read *The Lost Apothecary* by Sarah Penner: "It starts with a bit of mudlarking, shares stories of the strength and resilience of women, add a bit of sleuthing, some poison and a story told over two different time periods; I couldn't put it down."

A reader from South Dennis read *Girl, Unframed* by Deb Caletti: "Disturbing and powerful. A woman's body is her own - no should control it."

A reader from Salem read *Zig-Zag Boy: A Memoir of Madness and Motherhood* by Tanya Frank: "Heartbreaking story of a mother supporting her son's struggle with mental illness. Well written and interesting."

A reader from Pepperell read *Doing Life with Your Adult Children* by Jim Burns, PhD: "Despite having very different religious beliefs than the author, I found some useful nuggets as I navigate parenting emerging adults. I imagine and hope there is a book out there that is a better fit with my values."

A reader from Beverly read *Goldenrod* by Maggie Smith: "Maggie Smith writes poems filled with empathy, honesty, and kindness. Her poems are about our everyday existence with themes of parenthood, solitude, love, and memory. Maggie Smith's poetry is beautiful and approachable. It calms and relaxes the reader and is an antidote for the times we live in."

A reader from Belchertown read *What World is This and Other Stories* by GLORIA Whelan: "Genre: Catholic fiction. What a concept! And Gloria Whelan's story *What World is This?* takes

the reader on a ride of ups/downs. The question of FAITH can be found in each of the stories and will make you wonder about your own faith in God and the essence of faith in Life. Great book, great story.”

A reader from Lunenburg read *The Talented Mr. Ripley* by Patricia Highsmith: “Interesting study of an absolutely amoral young man who stops at nothing, not even murder, to accomplish his goals...a ‘very ordinary young man who liked to think he was extraordinary.’”

A reader from Hampden read *Kate In Waiting* by Becky Albertalli: “It was an interesting coming of age type book.”

A reader from Northfield read *a hope more powerful than the sea* by melissa fleming: “I cried multiple times in this book. i love true stories, but this one took the cake. i remember when Syrian refugees were trying to get to other countries. i also remember here in the U.S. we were not helpful bringing them here. It makes me sad because I know her story is one of millions. very well written.”

A reader from Beverly read *The Bodyguard* by Katherine Center: “A very well written and enjoyable read. Characters were engaging and the romance was sweet without being cloying; definitely will re-read this book again.”

A reader from Amesbury read *Mary Jane* by Jessica Anya Blau: “It was a great coming of age story, and held my interest until the end.”

A reader from Leominster read *Murder at Plimouth Plantation* by Leslie Wheeler: “It's always fun when a book takes place right here in Massachusetts. This novel is a bit more intense than a cozy mystery, and it has interesting characters and a plot that kept me guessing.”

A reader from Wilbraham read *The Way Kitchens Work* by Ed Sobey: “This is a manual of the history of kitchen appliances and products and how they work, from aluminum foil to wine savers, including blenders, can openers, coffeemakers, microwaves and toasters. Fascinating and certainly not a book that I would typically read.”

A reader from Sagamore Beach read *The Necklace* by Cheryl Jarvis: “Thirteen women share a \$37,000 diamond necklace and how the experiment thought up by one women transformed their lives. It is all about sharing not material possessions.”

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Jurassic Park* by Michael Crichton: “Amazing book that gave more depth to the story than the movie.”

A reader from Attleboro read *A Tale for The Time Being* by Ruth Ozeki: “Ruth, a novelist living on a small island off the coast of British Columbia finds a Hello Kitty lunch box and diary by Nao washed ashore on the beach. Ruth feels a strong connection to Nao and wishes to check on her well being as it could have been debris from the tsunami that struck Japan in 2011. The author

also wrote *The Book of Form and Emptiness* which was reviewed earlier in the year by many readers. Enjoyed the book.”

A reader from Beverly read *The Book of Joan* by Melissa Rivers: “It was good.”

A reader from Weymouth read *Piece of my Heart* by Mary Higgins Clark: “Thoroughly enjoyed this story. Loved how the story developed and characters were built and eventually overlapped.”

A reader from Hopkinton read *Drug Dealer, MD* by Anna Lembke: “While there are some valid points raised by the author, it's very clear she is primarily agenda-driven and not above double-standards, sloppy terminology, and cherry-picking data to drive the reader along a path she selected.”

A reader from Ludlow read *The Lost and Found Bookshop* by Susan Wiggs: “It moved a bit slowly, lots of detail and seemed a little trite or predictable in places, but worthwhile. Nice historical detail. Prolific author, not sure if I'll read more of hers but glad for the push to read new authors!”

A reader from Worcester read *Like Water for Chocolate* by Laura Esquivel: “The magical realism of the book was intriguing and I enjoyed the interspersed recipes.”

A reader from Lee read *The Flatshare* by Beth O'Leary: “The author perfectly balances a swoony romance with more serious topics.”

A reader from Rochester read *The Tanglewood Murder* by Lucille Kallen: “It seems that no one with the name Lucille has been writing books recently (copyright 1980 here), but it was fun to read a good old fashioned mystery with quaint characters and clever dialogue.”

A reader from WAKEFIELD read *Hana's Suitcase* by Karen Levine: “Amazing non fiction account of a teacher in Japan who went to great lengths to teach her students about the Holocaust using a real child's story.”

A reader from Malden read *The Body Under the Piano* by Marthe Jocelyn: “Cute murder mystery where two young children solve a mystery in the style of Agatha Christie.”

A reader from Rockland read *Elementary, She Read* by Vicki Konchak: “Cozy murder mystery with lots of interesting characters all with motive and opportunity. Fun, easy read.”

A reader from Amherst read *A Castaway in Cornwall* by Julie Klassen: “Enjoyed the book, a women nurses a ship wreck survivor back to health and helps him return to his home. The sea, adventure and romance what could be better.”

A reader from Haverhill read *Bossypants* by Tina Fey: "Well written. The Audiobook was easy to listen to!"

A reader from Hopedale read *And Again, It's You: A Memoir* by Jessica Shorstein: "Brought me back to the early 2000's when it was AIM and trying to find myself and love. I related SO much to this book."

A reader from Brockton read *The Family Remains* by Lisa Jewel: "This was a very interesting book about a family who has many past secrets that come to light when a cold case opens up for investigation."

A reader from Boston read *Is there still sex in the city?* by Candace Bushnell: "A fun read, especially for someone who watched SATC and AJLT."

A reader from Berkley read *The Bones of the Story* by Carol Goodman: "I had never read this author before. I really enjoyed the book and will read more of her books. It was a great mystery/thriller and a fun read."

A reader from Wellesley read *Yentl the Yeshiva Boy* by Isaac Bashevis Singer: "Yentl has the body of a woman and the soul of a man; is this old-fashioned gender roles coming into play, or do we have an early story of a gay transman here? Reader, you decide."

A reader from Billerica read *The Beantown Girls* by Jane Healey: "Never knew about the Red Cross Girls and their emotional support contributions to WW2."

A reader from Plainville read *Radio Girls* by Sarah Stratford: "I learned a lot about the early days of the BBC and London in the 1920s. I enjoyed the book more than expected and will see if this author has written any others."

A reader from northampton read *Happy for You* by Claire Stanford : "I did not enjoy this book at all, but I slogged through for the sake of this mon8t8h8's8 8(8l8i8m8i8t8i8n8g8)8 8r8e8a8d8i8n8g8 8c8h8a8l8l8e8n8g8e8.8"

A reader from Northfield read *Unsheltered* by Barbara Kingsolver: "Moral dilemmas abound, in any century, under any circumstances. To follow characters who struggle to meet their moments, especially when an author honors the quandary by setting readers up to understand and appreciate the challenges, is a hallmark of Barbara Kingsolver's body of work. I am not, of course, a robot, but I do feel more embraced as a human after this read."

A reader from Northampton read *Too Bright to See* by Kyle Lukoff: "It's a trans ghost story. Very sweet."



A reader from Marriottsville read *The Diamond Eye* by Kate Quinn: “Riveting story! All of Kate Quinn's books are stay-up-late reads! I highly recommend al of her books and look forward to the next one that she writes!”

A reader from Braintree read *The Darkest Corners* by Kara Thomas: “A lot of mysteries tied together.”

A reader from Rochester read *Henchgirl* by Kristen Gudsnuk: “A sometimes confusing but overall fun and humorous superhero parody. I read this on Hoopla, which has an excellent collection of comics!”

A reader from Brookline read *The darkest evening* by Ann Cleeves: “Moderately entertaining mystery novel in the series featuring Vera Stanhope, a middle -aged detective with little patience for social niceties. Her investigation begins with the finding of a murdered young woman on the grounds of a large estate.”

A reader from Andover read *The War that Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley: “Affecting middle grade YA novel. Themes of overcoming trauma and found family are set against the historic backdrop of the child evacuations in WWII England.”

A reader from Weymouth read *Rock Paper Scissors* by Matty Dalrymple: “What a surprise to find an author with my most unusal last name - Dalrymple Her books are delicious mysteries. Published by an indie book publisher. Try one of her books, you won't be disappointed.”

A reader from Beverly read *Wanderlust* by Elisabeth Eaves: “The protagonist's constant travel felt a little unsettling. I've lived in a number of different places and enjoy taking vacations for a week or two, but I haven't felt driven to take the kind of risks that the main character takes on in this book.”

A reader from Attleboro read *The One-in-a-Million Boy* by Monica Wood: “This was a moving story about how a 12 year old boy affects the lives of his father and an elderly woman. Very well written and the characters were all flawed, but likable.”

A reader from Quincy read *Roll for Initiative* by Jaime Formato: “I loved this book. A sweet story about friends, family, and self-discovery.”

A reader from Amesbury read *East of Boston* by Stephanie Schorow: “While a bit out of date by now, I found this book of travel writing about and the history & geography of the Boston Harbor Islands to be both educational and entertaining!”

A reader from West Whately read *The Girl Who Chased the Moon* by Sarah Addison Allen: “Unexpectedly charming. The weaving tails of today and yesterday, and potentially tomorrow was sweet. I badly want the wallpaper in Emily's room.”

A reader from Beverly read *For You Mom, Finally* by Ruth Reichl: "I adored this book. I am trying to write my own narrative about my mom. This was dear, deeply personal, funny and sad all at once, and a kind of ode to the women who came before, who paved the way for those women who would work, have families, try to figure out how to do it all, and figure out who we were, not who someone thought we should be. Bittersweet read."

A reader from Beverly read *The Brothers Hawthorne* by Jennifer Lynn Barnes: "As the fourth book in The Inheritance Games series, the dual point of view and use of flashbacks pose a hinderance to the overall story. This felt like two novellas put together in order to set up the fifth book on the series."

A reader from Hopkinton read *The Expatriates* by Janice Y.K. Lee: "Interesting story with deep characters. I enjoyed it, especially how story lines came together in a way that wasn't what I thought would happen, but ultimately made sense."

A reader from Chicopee read *Think Again* by Adam Grant: "This book challenges us to rethink our way of life, and set new goals for ourselves to not only improve our way of living, but to provide better support through others. By evolving our way of thinking, Grant argues that we are more inclined to try new things and agree with new ideas."

A reader from Salem read *That Affair Next Door* by Anna Katharine Green: "An unexpectedly fun murder mystery. Really cool to open my eyes to an author in this space I didn't know before."

A reader from Spencer read *Riverbend Gap* by Denise Hunter: "I liked this book so much I ended up reading the series. It is a light, easy read."

A reader from Amesbury read *Altered* by Jennifer Rush: "Standard YA sci-fi. Somewhat interesting plot, though a weird take on the typical love triangle."

A reader from Middleboro read *Southern Storm* by Terri Blackstock: "This was the 2nd book in a 3 book series. I enjoyed the characters in the first book and the continuation of their stories in the 2nd. It's a good, Christian series."

A reader from Amherst read *Queen's Fortune* by Allison Pataki: "Very interesting work of historical fiction centering on Napoleon Bonaparte and his former mistress Desiree Clary. Before Napoleon married Josephine he was engaged to Desiree. Her sister marries his brother so they are still very much in each other's lives as Napoleon campaigns to conquer and rule as many other countries as he can."

A reader from Amherst read *The man they wanted me to be: toxic masculinity and a crisis of our own making* by Jared Yates Sexton: "I really liked his blend of personal memoir with a bigger picture storytelling. It was pageturning, and heartbreaking, and it also made me very grateful for my own father for just being himself and not pushing me into anything."

A reader from Monson read *Hymger: A Memoir of (My) Body* by Roxane Gay: "The author and I share names. My first name is Gay, her last name is Gay. She writes about the rape of her childhood at age 12 and how this horrific event shaped her body and mind and spirit for the rest of her life. At one point, she weighed 577 pounds eating to make sure she and her body felt "safe." She writes about being very visible being morbidly obese, but being so invisible for not being seen for who she is. The story is heartbreaking, but hopeful as Roxane has a great job, is a successful writer, and is more accepting of herself. I will never look at a "fat" person with disdain again."

A reader from Methuen read *Playing By Heart* by Carmela Martino: "A book based on two real life sisters living in 18th century Milan. Each following their own passions in life."

A reader from West Yarmouth read *The Ex* by Danielle Girard: "Enjoyed this book and learned it is a prequel to a series of books about main character Annabelle Schwartzman that I will definitely look into reading more of. Very fast paced and quick read. More of my interest as involved medical and crime, and investigation which are genres I enjoy reading."

A reader from Wakefield read *Walk Two Moons* by Sharon Creech: "I was so happy with this book, especially since it was a random pick based on the author' first name. Sweet story. I laughed and cried even."

A reader from Salem read *How the Irish saved civilization* by Thomas Cahill: "Fascinating explanation of how the Irish saved latin literature. The books were brought to Irish monasteries, copied, survived the fall of Rome, then were returned to the Europe mainland by Irish monks before the Irish monasteries were destroyed by the Vikings."

A reader from Scu read *Arranged* by Catherine McKenzie: "No meet cute, no dating romance that's well written and intelligent. A pleasure."

A reader from Chelmsford read *And Thereby Hangs a Tale* by Jeffrey Zarcher: "Back in 2017, I read Archer's story collection Tell Tale. I loved it. September's entry allowed me to find another of his story collections. This book contained well written stories with vivid characters, interesting plots, and most enjoyably, surprising, logical twists making each story an O'Henry like treat."

A reader from Bourne read *Twenty One Days* by Anne Perry: "I had never read this author before and I really loved the book. Always wonderful to find new author who has written a lot of books."

A reader from Chicopee read *Heard It In A Love Song* by Tracey Garvis Graves: "Two soon to be divorcees with broken hearts take a chance on love & begin to figure out what they want in life."

A reader from Wilmington read *Green Wilma* by Tedd Arnold: "It was weird. I did not like how the author never explained how or why she turned into a frog."

A reader from Enfield read *The Last House Guest* by Megan Miranda: "This thriller didn't land for me. I thought it was extremely boring. The characters were not well developed."

A reader from Georgetown read *The kissing booth* by Beth Reekles: "Fun end of summer reading."

A reader from Weymouth read *Fly Away* by Patricia MacLachlan: "My maiden name is MacLachlan and I remember reading Patricia MacLachlan's book Sarah, Plain and Tall, when I was a child. For this month's challenge, I learned Patricia has written many more children's books, including Fly Away. This story is so powerful, as it teaches a young poet to believe in using her voice."

A reader from Melbourne read *Twenty-eight and a half Wishes* by Denise Grover Swank: "It was not easy to find a book by an author with my first or last name. Now that I've read this book, all I can say is, I wish I had had more options..... This is NOT to say that I'm not enjoying this book challenge - it has been fun!"

A reader from Centerville read *What An Owl Knows* by Jennifer Ackerman: "A fascinating, educational and accessible book on owls - where they live, how they raise their young, why they're important, and what we can do to save them."

A reader from Rochester read *The Fifth Victim* by Beverly Barton: "Enjoyable and suspenseful."

A reader from Florence read *How to Bake a Perfect Life* by Barbara O'Neal: "Very light, even though it was about serious current issues. I feel the author's voice was very readable and upbeat."

A reader from SCITUATE read *The Book Rescuer* by Sue Macy: "A lovely book of the history of one person trying to save the literary heritage of the Yiddish language. The book conveys the importance of heritage and of the dedication to a quest that is felt deep in someone's heart."

A reader from WILBRAHAM read *Bootlegger's Daughter* by Margaret Maron: "Set in North Carolina, the story has lots of Southern atmosphere. A female lawyer solves a cold case."

A reader from Brookline read *A Visit From the Goon Squad* by Jennifer Egan: "I did zero pre-reading about this book, and I'm glad I did. It made the interconnection and futuristic portions seem more integrated, and made me more invested in each character rather than trying to follow a main set."

A reader from Salem read *Pageboy* by Elliot Page: "I was really touched by the book, it being a very personal story about a public figure and the struggles he faced and still faces. It's also

important to me to read books by transgender authors to remind myself I'm not the only one who feels the way I do about my gender and perception of body."

A reader from Wakefield read *None of This is True* by Lisa Jewell: "I couldn't put this book down! It was fast paced and kept you guessing about what really happened the whole way through. Highly recommend!"

A reader from Wakefield read *Seasonal Work* by Laura Lippmann: "I don't typically read books of short stories but these were interesting. I especially liked how the first few stories were different but had overlapping characters."

A reader from Dracut read *Practical Magic* by Alice Hoffman: "A good spooky story about sisters and magic and love, an Alice Hoffman specialty."

A reader from Quincy read *Crazy Beautiful* by Lauren Baratz-Logsted: "This book was an easy read; the main characters were flawed, but in a way that had me rooting for them. Crazy Beautiful is a modern retelling of Beauty and the Beast, my favorite Disney movie as a child, which may also factor into why I enjoyed it so much."

A reader from Weymouth read *The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating* by Elisabeth Tova Bailey: "The book was helpful in showing the power of having a pet and how interesting animals are. "

A reader from Lowell read *The Bladesmith* by Megan Grooms: "At first, it was a little cliché and ham fisted, but it turned into a sweet, forbidden and innocent love that has its silly, redundant moments but also it's heartfelt redeeming moments. I enjoyed it so much I am reading the second book."

A reader from Leominster read *Kiss Her Once For Me* by Alison Cochran: "This was a Hallmark Holiday movie distilled into a book. It was easy to read but repetitive in its descriptions of people. (We get it - Jack smells like bread!) it was also an instance where the secondary characters were so much more interesting than Ellie, the main character. She could be grating."

A reader from Reading read *One of Us is Back* by Karen M. McManus: "This is the final book in the trilogy that started with *One of Us is Lying*. The first book was definitely the best, but the second and third are pretty solid as well."

A reader from Wakefield read *Daisy Jones & The Six* by Taylor Jenkins Reid: "So good! Flew through it in just four days. I've read a few of her books before and I loved that this one was in an "interview" or "oral history" style. I loved that it was told from all of the characters different perspectives and their memory of certain events."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Smile and look pretty* by Amanda Pellegrino: "Great insight to the world of assistants. An enjoyable story."

A reader from Chicopee read *Christmas Cupcake Murder* by Joanne Fluke: "This was the story of a man with amnesia and the helpful baker and her friends and family who help him find out where his home is. Lots of recipes inside each chapter."

A reader from Rochester read *The Fifth Gospel* by Ian Caldwell: "In this fast moving Vatican thriller, a silent priest suspected of murder is tried in the church court, not for his life, but for the mean he has given it. Entertaining, but also an eye opener on organized religion and the men who operate within its walls."

A reader from Hanson read *The Woman in the Fifth* by Douglas Kennedy: "For readers that enjoy a suspenseful book that doesn't appear to be that way until three quarters of it are read, will find it to be a worthy read."

A reader from Leverett read *Where the Light Enters* by Jill Biden: "Moving, refreshingly frank account of Jill Biden's life. I knew almost nothing about her before so it was full of surprises."

A reader from Northfield read *The Old Cape House* by Barbara Eppich Struna: "The story is about an old house in Brewster, MA. It goes back and forth between present times and the early 1700's. The older part of the story was more interesting. Maria Hallett & Sam Bellamy had an affair and then he was off to be a pirate. Not sure how much was based on fact but I really enjoyed it."

A reader from South Hamilton read *Miss Lattimore's Letter* by Suzanne Allain: "A fun story with many -perhaps too many - echoes of Jane Austen's masterful tales."

A reader from Amherst read *The Mystery of Mrs. Christie* by Marie Benedict: "I appreciate this challenge, as it introduced me to an interesting author who writes books about women whom we should know better. The book was well-written and suspenseful. I'm eager to read her books about Clementine Churchill and Hedy Lamar."

A reader from Medford read *I Have Some Questions for You* by Rebecca: "I found this mystery very intriguing, particularly because I often dwell on things (overthinking and analyzing them just like the narrator) and I went to a boarding school."

A reader from Dracut read *People of the Whale* by Linda Hogan: "I very much enjoyed reading this book. Highly recommend it. "

A reader from Harwich read *Slightly South of Simple* by Kristy Woodson Harvey: "Modern romance novel, "beach read" — not my usual choice, so good for a challenge."

A reader from Attleboro read *All the Missing Girls* by Megan Miranda: "A book that I couldn't put down, All the Missing Girls was an interesting take on a missing-person mystery. However, I felt that it was misleading in not good ways and also glorified immoral acts by the end. Three stars."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Moon of the crusted snow* by Waubgeshig Rice: "My last name starts with R. So I chose this book because of that. I never thought Scott was this bad! Good book and not too long."

A reader from Fitchburg read *Rachel: Out of Office* by Christina Hovland: "A light read about the relationship with a single mom and her ex-in law family."

A reader from Reading read *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan: "I reread and once again enjoyed this story about Chinese immigrant mothers and their American born daughters. The book is a series of stories structured like the mahjong game played at the club "meetings" and the vignettes poignantly portray the character's lives, personalities, disappointments and hopes. Highly recommend!"

A reader from AMHERST read *Dear Edward* by Ann Napolitano: "Sad, emotionally gripping story about a plane crash and the young boy who is its only survivor. The novel examines loss, the randomness of existence, and how those left behind rebuild their lives."

A reader from Hadley read *Breaking Bread* by Deborah Joy Corey & Debra Spark (editors): "A thought-provoking collection of essays written by New England based writers (primarily Maine) who share their personal stories about food and their relationship to hunger, security, love, loss, family, and community. Lots to reflect on."

A reader from Conway read *A Turn in the Road* by Debbie Macomber: "A fun and very quick read. Definitely a "beach" book. My cross country road trip was certainly nothing like this one, although a couple of very nice men helped me when I had vehicle trouble."

A reader from Basking ridge read *Broken Things* by Lauren Oliver: "Started off strong and then shit the bed."

A reader from Rochester read *Forever interrupted* by Taylor Jenkins Reid: "This book was both funny and sad.makes you realize how lucky you are to be alive and ne able to read what ever you like."

A reader from Middleboro read *A study in scarlet* by Arthur Conan Doyle: "It was really interesting to read the first Sherlock Holmes book and see how accurate the movies and shows are that are based on it. It was short but also very detailed."

A reader from Erving read *Summer Friends* by Holly Chamberlain: "Interesting characters with their stories unfolding throughout the book. I appreciated that there was a prologue that gave a glimpse into what was happening with the main characters after the story finished."

A reader from Tewksbury read *The Chimera Code* by Wayne Santos: "I'm not fond of mixing sci-fi with magic. It lazily allows the author to get characters out of scrapes using means the reader had no idea even existed."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Girl With a Pearl Earring* by Tracy Chevalier: "I enjoyed this book, it took me into a world I don't usually go."

A reader from Worcester read *A Forgery of Roses* by Jessica S. Olsen: "This book is dark fantasy book with compelling characters and an interesting plot; a little melodramatic in places, but overall a great read!"

A reader from Fairhaven read *Atalanta* by Saint, Jennifer: "If you like Greek Myths and conflicted characters, add this title to your list! A retelling of the myth of Atalanta, this is all action, all motion, all excitement from open to close. If you enjoy this one, the author has rewritten the myths of Elektra and Ariadne as well."

A reader from Hartland read *There Your Heart Lies* by Mary Gordon: "I did not care for this book."

A reader from Providence read *The New Chardonnay The Unlikely Story of How Marijuana Went Mainstream* by Heather Cabot: "I was hoping for more about the cultural shift to mainstream. But, this told the stories of how a few companies started out in the market."

A reader from Paxton read *Winter Trees* by Sylvia Plath: "I had read the Bell Jar, but I hadn't read Plath's poetry before, so it was great to see that side of her writing. I particularly enjoyed Three Women, her radio play."

A reader from Middleboro read *Stillwater* by Melissa Lenhardt: "I became very invested in this book but then was disappointed in the ending! I felt the book left a lot of loose ends and what happened??"

A reader from Lowell read *The Hours* by Michael Cunningham: "I didn't love this book. I liked that it was short, so that is why I finished it. I found it be to be jumpy and bit hard to follow."

A reader from Florence read *Murder Ties the Knot* by Diane Darcy: "It was a fast read and quick mystery."

A reader from Dracut read *Divine Rivals* by Rebecca Ross: "This story completely sucked me in. I thoroughly enjoyed this read."

A reader from Wilmington read *A Cloud in the Shape of a Girl* by Jean Thompson: "I thought it was an interesting family drama. It was a sad subject matter."

A reader from Weymouth read *The Wild Inside* by Christine Carbo: "A gruesome crime returns Ted Systead to Glacier National Park in Montana. The very place he lost his father to a grizzly attack on a camping trip when he was 14. The investigation description is interspersed with memories Ted is struggling with. I'd recommend and will read more of the author."



A reader from Springfield read *Kabul Beauty School* by Deborah Rodriguez: "This year I am participating in the #massbookreadingchallenge. September's challenge/books is to read one written by someone with your first or last name. I have selected Kabul Beauty School by Deborah Rodriguez. Rodriguez being my last name. What an inspirational read about women taking chances to make a better life for themselves. I learned so much about the Afghan culture. I recommend this to anyone looking for a feel good educational read!"

A reader from Springfield read *Almost Forever* by Maria Testa: "A child point of view when Dad goes to Vietnam. A children book written in poem style."

A reader from Scituate read *Angel in Marble* by Elaine Coffman: "Historical romance novel not one I would usually read. Fair but not wanting to read any other of her books."

A reader from Somerville read *This Time Tomorrow* by Emma Straub: "Made me laugh and cry, think in the very best way, and want to form better relationships with my parents, my family, my friends, and the world around me. Loved it!"

A reader from Beverly read *The Sanatorium* by Sarah Pearse: "Surprisingly insightful perspective on sibling relationships and the impact of grief within families."

A reader from Sandwich read *Rattled* by Debra Galant: "It was an easy read with a lot of characters. It had some humorous parts to it and a real good ending."

A reader from Belchertown read *Old Babes in the Wood* by Margaret Atwood: "This is a collection of short stories that I thoroughly enjoyed. Many of them deal with aging which I could relate to and many involve a married couple as they age and look back on their life and the grief of the wife after the husband dies."

A reader from Plainville read *Galatea* by Madeline Miller: "This challenge was hard for me to find a book with my first or last name. Madeline Miller immediately came to my mind, but I previously have read her books. I never realized she wrote this short story. It was captivating and made me curious about other Greek Mythology tales."

A reader from Beverly read *The New Wilderness* by Diane Cook: "It was an interesting combination of realism and fable that was pretty, but it also left me thinking a little too much about the minutia of the situation."

A reader from Melrose read *Outlaw Platoon* by Sean Parnell: "I have the greatest respect and awe for people that put their lives on the line for all of us, but I had a lot of trouble with this book. It's cliché, self-aggrandizing, mysogynistic, homophobic, xenophobic, etc. I was hoping this might be *The Things They Carry* by Tim O'Brien but for Afghanistan, but unfortunately it doesn't compare to that book. 2/5."

A reader from Hampden read *We are All So Good at Smiling* by Amber McBride: "This was a book of fantasy or fairy tale. That is not my normal genre but it was cute. It had a nice ending with meaning for all."

A reader from Middleboro read *Mool light becomes you* by Mary Higgins Clark: "Grown Maggie travels to Newport RI To meet with her step mother who she loves dearly. Nuala (stepmom) is over joyed she coming. But Nuala dies before the meeting, than another dies, than another dies. Maggie swears to find the killer, and the story begins. I love this book!"

A reader from Palmer read *The Will of Heaven: A Story of One Vietnamese and the End of His World* by Nguyễn Ngọc Ngạn: "A really interesting memoir of one Vietnamese man's experience during the height of the communist reign in Vietnam. He was imprisoned in an "education camp," for several years, and finally managed to escape out of Vietnam. I haven't read anything about Vietnam, so this was a really eye-opening book. The book has a PG-13 feel, and I wonder how much of his life Ngan censored in the book, because what he experienced was truly horrific."

A reader from SWANSEA read *The Dark Journey* by Diana Raymond: "In this touching and heart-rending story, the author explores the ordeal, confusion, and hazards of sudden widowhood experienced by the main character who loses her husband in a mountain-climbing accident. A Dark Journey indeed."

A reader from Weymouth read *Run* by Ann Patchett: "This was a great story about a family that seemed to have many advantages as well as loses in their lives. Through an unfortunate car accident, they find themselves bonding together to bring another member into the blended family. A heartwarming novel to read. Loved it!"

A reader from Northampton read *Dreaming on Both Sides of the Brain* by Doris Eliana Cohen, Phd: "It was a bit woo woo for my taste."

A reader from Franklin read *Eternal* by Cynthia Leitich Smith: "This was a quick read but overall just ok. I didn't love it or hate it but I'm also not interested in reading others in the series."

A reader from Fitchburg read *The Guest List* by Lucy Foley: "An intriguing and interesting murder-mystery who-done it! Characters were fully developed and story flowed smoothly."

A reader from SUTTON read *You Know Her* by Meagan Jennett: "I don't think I would have ever read this book had it not been for this challenge. There aren't too many people who spell their name the same as I do. That being said, serial killers are not my thing, and this likely isn't a genre I will be returning to. I listened to the audio version and did appreciate the 2 narrators, but this just wasn't for me."

A reader from Uxbridge read *Tuesdays at the Castle* by Jessica Day George: "Loved this book, so much fun."

A reader from Boston read *The Tobacco Wives* by Adele Myers: “Very interesting historical fiction account of what it was like to live in a cigarette producing town.”

A reader from Stoneham read *Kim Jong Un and the Bomb: Survival and Deterrence in North Korea* by Ankit Panda: “This was an interesting one. I had never read a book from someone as the same name as me. Was a tad hard to find a highly rated book but this was certainly a good read.”

A reader from Dracut read *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* by Hunter S. Thompson: “Hunter's stick together...even when one Hunter is on a bunch of drugs trying to buy an ape at the casino, and the other Hunter is just reading about it. (Guess which Hunter I am).”

A reader from East Taunton read *Hue 1968* by Mark Bowden: “This was a sobering look at the Tet Offensive from many different perspectives: the Vietnamese people, the Press and the US military. I was struck by how many college educated young men were profiled. I was struck by the inh19u19m19a19n19i19t19y19 19o19f19 19m19a19n19 19t19o19 19o19n19e19 19a19n19o19t19h19e19r19.19 19l19 19w19a19s19 19o19f19t19e19n19 19l19e19f19t19 19w19o19n19d19e19r19i19n19g19 19h19o19w19 19B19o19w19d19e19n19 19k19n19e19w19 19t19h19e19 19i19n19t19e19r19n19a19l19 19t19h19o19u19g19h19t19s19 19o19f19 19t19h19e19 19s19u19b19j19e19c19t19s19 19o19f19 19t19h19i19s19 19b19o19o19k19.19 19l19 19h19a19v19e19 19t19o19 19t19h19i19n19k19 19h19e19 19d19e19p19l19o19y19e19d19 19s19o19m19e19 19d19e19g19r19e19e.”

A reader from Barnstable read *Lady Tan's Circle Of Women* by Lisa See: “Fascinating story set in ancient China that deftly explores Chinese medicine, the intricate nature of female relationships developing and deepening over time and the complex motivations that drive female leaders choices and actions.”

A reader from Topsfield read *A Thirst for Rain* by Roslyn Carrington: “I've never read a book set in Trinidad before!”

A reader from Peabody read *Mother Noise* by Cindy House: “It was emotional and very interesting. I liked this book alot.”

A reader from Sandwich read *The Bridge Across the Ocean* by Susan Meissner: “A story that kept my attention, centering on supernatural powers, but blending in lives thrown into turmoil during World War II.”

A reader from HAMPDEN read *Minor Characters* by Joyce Johnson: “I thought the book was extremely well written. It was a time I had no previous knowledge of and therefore was enlightened.”

A reader from Turners Falls read *The Chance* by Karen Kingsbury: "I liked this month's choice as it made me seek out an author who was new to me. I didn't realize that her writing delved so much into faith. It was an easy and interesting read for me."

A reader from Worcester read *Dust Bowl Girls: The Inspiring Story of the Team That Barnstormed Its Way to Basketball Glory* by Lydia Reeder: "This book was fascinating, weaving together the stories of a depression/dust bowl-era women's basketball team and the larger social context of women in sports in the 1930s. I would highly recommend this book for anyone interested in sports history, women's history, or both."

A reader from Reading read *Mission Hill* by Pamela Wechsler: "An enjoyable fast read."

A reader from Chicopee read *Bastard Out of Carolina* by Dorothy Allison: "It's a heartbreaking story of poor white folks in the South. This book stays with you. Not sure I could read any other book by this author."

A reader from Northfield read *A Star for Mrs. Blake* by April Smith: "The beginning of the book had an intriguing way of getting to the heart of the story - Ms. Smith writes a compelling story about a matter I was not aware of, and does so with raw emotion about so many impacts of war."

A reader from Gill read *The Heron's Cry* by Ann Cleeves: "Very good. Well written. I love english mysteries!"

A reader from Santa Cruz read *Debriefing Collected Stories* by Susan Sontag: "I enjoyed this collection of Sontag's short stories. The range is from allegory to autobiographical. I especially enjoyed *The Dummy* and *Project for a Trip to China*."

A reader from Harwich read *The Knowledge* by Martha Grimes: "Martha Grimes, a prolific and terrific mystery writer, wrote 25 novels between 1981 and 2019 featuring Richard Jury of Scotland Yard; many of the novels are titled after pubs in the UK. *The Knowledge*, a fast-paced, entertaining mystery set in London and Nairobi, conjures a pub known only to the drivers of London's famous black cabs."

A reader from Salem read *Anything is possible* by Elizabeth Strout: "Wonderful look at humans and all their messiness. Loved it!"

A reader from Essex read *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett: "Beautifully written, humorous, tragic, suspenseful. A great read."

A reader from READING read *It Needs to Look Like We Tried* by Todd Robert Petersen: "I really enjoyed this book because it was written like a series of short stories with each one including a character from the previous story. The interesting characters all come together in the end."

A reader from Los Alamos read *Nothing with Strings* by Bailey WHITE: "This is a collection of 13 stories Bailey WHITE delivered for NPR's ALL THINGS CONSIDERED for over a decade. It's Southern story-telling, capturing characters and place."

A reader from Melrose read *Robes* by Tjm O'Leary: "This was the story of a money laundering scheme between the top level of authority of the judges, priests and the mob. The plot was a bit confusing although the author did try to tie up all the pieces at the end of the story. The book ended with good winning over evil which is how I like my stories to end."

A reader from Thorndike read *Trespases* by Louise Kennedy: "Dramatic (in a good way), interesting, Emotional Historical fiction based in Northern Ireland during the Troubles."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *One for the Money* by Janet Evanovich: "I've never read any books by this author, so began with #1 in the Stephanie Plum series. It was a fun book to listen to."

A reader from Lancaster read *I promise not to tell* by Jennifer McMahon: "I love a good thriller, and this definitely was it. The way you're cut between two story lines that end up culminating in a perfect whodunit reveal. I feel like the narrator explains and describes everything perfectly and in such a way you feel like you're experiencing everything with her."

A reader from Wakefield read *Woman on Fire* by Lisa Barr: "An entertaining historical thriller. Relies a little too heavily on established tropes, but employs them well."

A reader from Dennis Port read *Judy Moody Was in a Mood* by Megan McDonald: "I confess to reading a full stack of Judy Moody books because nothing thrilled me more than the first time I saw the first Judy Moody book in a store - and sharing the same first AND last name with the author. It was so exciting to see my name on a book. And the Judy Moody books are as addictive and entertaining as the Ramona Quimby books ever were."

A reader from Belchertown read *Getting Schooled: the reeducation of an American teacher* by Garret Keizer: "Fun to find an author with my last name and spelling, not very common. As a teacher this was a good read, and could be updated again in the post covid world."

A reader from Naples read *Tell The Wolves I'm Home* by Carol Rifka Brunt: "I love debut novels and this is no exception. Read about 10 years ago...I cherished every minute of rereading. An amazing coming-of-age story of AIDS and the New York art scene in the early 1980's. Tender, raw, bittersweet and heart wrenching."

A reader from Wilmington read *Carpe Demon* by Julie Kenner: "This was not a subject that I was initially drawn to. But the author's humor and clever story telling had me looking forward to every chapter. An unusual book for me but I enjoyed this author's writing style very much."

A reader from Harrisburg read *Just One Look* by Lindsay Cameron: "This was described in another review as being like the Netflix show 'You' with a female stalker, as opposed to a male. They nailed it - this book was absolutely uninged. I didn't care for it too much."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *A Muddy Red River* by D A Cairns: "Two brothers, estranged from each other. Both running from life. Tragedy intervenes, throwing their lives upside down. It all falls into place by the end. Redemption and future happiness seems likely."

A reader from Hadley read *Louis Wain's Cats* by Chris Beetles: "A must-read for cat enthusiasts. Hundreds of Wain's pieces are beautifully reproduced in this book and given context in his life and the arc of his artistic career. This is a well-made book of fascinating feline-inspired art by a fascinating artist."

A reader from WEST BARNSTABLE read *I Am Watching* by Emma Kavanagh: "I enjoyed this not too grisly, contemporary murder mystery set in a smallish town along Hadrian's Wall."

A reader from Irvine CA read *Castle Shade* by Laurie R King: "This is the 16th novel in the Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes series. The detective couple are investigating mysterious happenings in 1925 Transylvania. A vampire, perhaps?"

A reader from Erving read *Ever After* by Phyllis Whitney: "Written in 1948, the story is a light, girl-meets-boy love story, in the 1940s style. (No steamy sex scenes, no bad language). The title kind of hints that there is a question of whether they lived "happily" ever after. Spoiler alert: they did."

A reader from Plymouth read *Two Can Keep a Secret* by Karen M. McManus: "I was able to predict just about every plot twist in this book but I still found myself enjoying it anyway. It reminded me so much of *Pretty Little Liars*."

A reader from Braintree read *Yoga Pant Nation* by Laurie Gelman: "Yoga Pant Nation by Laurie Gelman is a sequel to "Class Mom" and "You've Been Volunteered!". I find them to be funny mom-lit, but the irreverent sarcasm of the narrator – a wine-drinking mom who, after being guilting by the school principal into heading up the school's fundraising committee, dubs it "We Fundraise Until Kingdom Come Team" (WeFUKCT) – might not be to everyone's taste."

A reader from Andover read *Relentless Enemy* by Keith Goad: "This was an intriguing story of murder, mystery, and a bit of the occult that was simply written. It had good character development and story. It felt quite a bit like television shows such as "Supernatural" crossed with "The Witcher". I might read the next book in the series."

A reader from Northampton read *Faith Bass Darling's Last Garage Sale* by Lynda Rutledge: "Memories of love, of happiness, of choices made, of so much sadness and regret and thankfully, thankfully opportunities for second chances create a wonderful story. I didn't expect to enjoy this book or Faith Bass Darling as much as I did. Good writing, good story, the gifts of

old friendships, community care and love and yes, second chances, plus little snips of fun and whimsy make this a book you need to read.”

A reader from Norwell read *Love, Pamela* by Pamela Anderson: “What a surprise this book was. Ms. Anderson comes across as intelligent, warm, sincere, creative, articulate...and she is all too aware of the double-edged sword her fame and fortune has been.”

A reader from Danvers read *The Dog Stars* by Peter Heller: “I thought that concept of this book was interesting, but ultimately, I struggled to finish this one and don't think this text was necessarily for me. I do love dogs, though, and found the relationship between Hig and Jasper quite moving.”

A reader from Paxton read *Big Girl Panties* by Stephanie Evanovich: “Okay story and characters, but had to skip through some of the spicy scenes.”

A reader from Lynn read *Red Velvet Revenge* by Jenn McKinlay: “A cozy mystery set in the cupcake world. Fans of cupcakes, rodeos or both will enjoy figuring out who did it.”

A reader from Bolton read *One of us is lying* by Karen M. McManus: “Entertaining and quick read, kept me guessing!”

A reader from Worcester read *For the Wolf* by Hannah Whitten: “Enjoyed the atmospheric element, but overall I felt the book dragged on too long.”

A reader from Seekonk read *The Marquess* by Pataricia Rice: “It was an interesting Regency novel. You knew how it was going to end, but the journey there was great.”

A reader from Florence read *Pitch Black* by Youme Landowne and Anthony Horton: “A love letter to New York City, to being creative to survive and to friendship itself.”

A reader from East Taunton read *The Weird Sisters: A Note, a Goat and a Casserole* by Mark David Smith: “I liked this book because it was funny and had a good play on words.”

A reader from Salem read *All My Knotted Up Life* by Beth Moore: “It was a very interesting book.”

A reader from Westford read *Dawn of the Neuron* by Michel Anctil: “It was really interesting to hear about the history of the neuron and that it was originally discredited!”

A reader from Aurora read *The Proud Italians* by Carl A Pescosolido: “A vanity press book by my grandfather. Pretty interesting!”

A reader from East Falmouth read *The Randolph Legacy* by Eileen Charbonneau: "I am grateful for this challenge as it prompted me to read a book that thoroughly captivated me. I consider a book that I can't put down a wonderful gift."

A reader from East Falmouth read *Earth's the Right Place for Love* by Elizabeth Berg: "Good story about love and family."

A reader from Methuen read *Donahue my own story* by Phil Donahue: "I maybe related to him."

A reader from Amhersr read *Jasper Jones* by Craig: "Interesting to read a book set in Australia and to read a YA title which I usually don't do."

A reader from Worcester read *Now in November* by Josephine Johnson: "At 24, Josephine Johnson won the Pulitzer Prize for *Now in November* in 1935. This book absolutely stands the test of time and should be sitting on the bookshelf with the likes of *Grapes of Wrath*."

A reader from Plymouth read *The Pursuit Of Love* by Nancy Mitford: "A funny glimpse into the English elite."

A reader from Townsend read *Jennifers body* by Diablo Cody: "Strayed from the movie but I still enjoyed it. I learned a little more about the characters and happenings, but the change of dialogue definitely threw me off. I finished it though, so that's something."

A reader from STOUGHTON read *A River Enchanted* by Rebecca Ross: "A beautiful story with wonderful characters and intricate world-building."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *The Second Ending* by Michelle Hoffman: "I loved this book—it's one of my favorites of the year. There are moments so ridiculous (anything that involved Bobby Wheeler), and Prudence is quite melodramatic, but the emotional threads running through her and Alexei's stories were just absolutely heartwarming."

A reader from Worcester read *In a dark dark wood* by Ruth Ware: "It was ok. A quick read."

A reader from Melrose read *A Gracious Plenty* by Sheri Reynolds: "I never would have found this book if not for the monthly reading challenge. It was more ruminative than many books I read, and I appreciated the gothic Southern style."

A reader from Longmeadow read *The Darkest Corners* by Kara Thomas: "This is my first murder mystery and I'm enjoying the suspense!"

A reader from Plainville read *True Biz* by Sara Novic: "In my Top 5 for the year so far!"



A reader from Melrose read *Half Moon Hero* by Taryn Bradley: "Jinx Monroe has been trying to set all his fathers wrongs right for awhile now. Meeting when they were just kids Jinx fell for Evie Dupree, the sheriffs daughter. Now he's a man and ready to see if Evie will give him a shot. But his past and her past are barreling towards any future they could have."

A reader from Scituate read *By Any Other Name* by Lauren Kate: "Romance editor tasked with working with her favorite author to cure their writer's block. Unexpected twist occurs. Not my type of book but interesting concept."

A reader from Sandwich read *news from heaven* by Jennifer haigh: "3 out of 5. Some were better than others... but it was nice how it circled and connected."

A reader from Attleboro read *Maybe You Should Talk to Someone: A Therapist, Her Therapist, and Our Lives Revealed* by Lori Gottlieb: "It read like a non fiction at times. Enjoyed the stories."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *The Last Thing He Told Me* by Laura Dave: "Kind of a downer ending for me, but I did like it (I'm a sucker for a straightforward happy ending). Definitely a page turner - I finished it in just a couple days!"

A reader from Leominster read *While Justice Sleeps* by Stacey Abrams: "A political thriller with an unexpected heroine."

A reader from Reading read *BEING YOU* by Anil Seth: "BEING YOU. A New Science of Consciousness by Anil Seth is a brilliant book. I chose to read the book as for September 2023 Reading Challenge, we had to choose a book whose author shared my first or last name. Normally, I would not have picked a book about Consciousness or self-awareness, but I am glad I did. It was an extremely interesting book."

A reader from Paxton read *Ophelia After All* by Racquel Marie: "This book was an interesting look at identity, friendship, and coming to terms with your sexuality. A diverse cast of characters with a broad spectrum of identities, although at times it felt like the author was trying to hit the most boxes she possibly could with the representation."

A reader from Stoneham read *Fallout: A Jesse Stone novel* by Mike Lupica: "Good continuation of the series. Enjoyed it."

A reader from Montague read *The Other Wise Man* by Henry Van Dyke: "Odd story about a fourth wise man who never gets to meet Jesus. Reminds me of stories by O Henry."

A reader from dedham read *The Accidental Tourist* by Anne Tyler: "Touching and funny...An unlikely love story!"

A reader from METHUEN read *Practical Spellcraft* by Leanna: "Very helpful book, learned many new things from her!"

A reader from SANDWICH read *The Operator* by Gretchen Berg: "The story was set in 1950's, with flashbacks to 1930's. It was entertaining. The author's voice captures the misogyny and racism common during this time period in America (Midwest- Ohio), although it was a bit uncomfortable at times."

A reader from Somerville read *Sworn to Silence* by Linda Castillo: "I was intrigued that this mystery is set in Amish country, and stars a cop who used to be Amish herself, but this surpassed my expectations. I couldn't put it down! It is graphic and violent, so not for the faint of heart."

A reader from Lowell read *Brat, An '80s Story* by Andrew McCarthy: "I chose this book because my maiden name is McCarthy and because I was obsessed with the 80s. I grew up watching every John Hughes movie made and had a little tiny crush on Andrew McCarthy. His account of his acting career and his shunning of being a member of "the brat pack" is sweet and funny. He is modest and thoughtful and has not aged a single bit. A super quick read, I highly recommend it!"

A reader from Saugus read *The summer I turned pretty* by Jenny Han: "This book was an easy read but it felt like it was more for a younger audience."

A reader from Lynnfield read *The Family Chao* by Lan Samantha Chang: "Another reviewer wrote that this is 'slightly repulsive and incredibly juicy.' And that is so spot on. I was pulled in and couldn't stop reading even though all the characters are pretty hateable. I definitely felt the Russian lit influence. Really enjoyed this overall."

A reader from Forestdale read *At the coffee shop of curiosities* by Heather Webber: "I loved everything about this book. It's such a feel good book about the goodness of people in this world. And a little magic, that we all could use!"

A reader from Marblehead read *Eye Level* by Jenny Xie: "Brilliant and lovely long lines!"

A reader from Reading read *Vintage Munro* by Alice Munro: "Alice Munro. Quiet stories, compelling in the depth of her human knowledge, not sentimental, great writing. So glad I finally read her work."

A reader from Woburn read *People Like Us* by Dana Mele: "Interesting premise and had so much potential, but the story was all over the place. Kept me interested enough to keep reading but it was a little painful."

A reader from Amherst read *How to Live* by Henry Alford: "This is a book from which every older adult (and younger adult) can gain wisdom. Well written, involving, full of thought-provoking advice, wisdom and knowledge from the author and from all the older adults he interviewed. I am so glad I read this book. As I age I will rely on much of the imparted wisdom and trust myself, and rejoice in my continuing aging experience."

A reader from Weymouth read *An Honorable Gentleman* by Regina Scott: "Entertaining, but not educational. Some suspense which did keep me interested. Not my usual kind of book at all. It was set in a long ago time in England, but there weren't any historic events."

A reader from Greenfield read *What big teeth* by Rose Szabo: "A building of spooky suspense, this book as a fun way to kick off the fall. Really enjoyed the focus on identity, belonging and self-empowerment."

A reader from CENTERVILLE read *Life with Picasso* by Françoise Gilot: "He was a very famous painter, and, soon an older man. She was also a painter, a young vibrant 21year old. It's, pretty much, the eternal story...10 years of tumultuous love-muse-art life, two children and then, a very cruel separation. The book has been very successful probably because of his name. I am grateful that it was not banned before its publication."

A reader from Sandwich read *The Agathas* by Kathleen Glasgow and Liz Lawson: "I found this book because it was listed as an option on a school summer reading list. The author's first name starts with the same letter as mine so I decided to read it for the September entry. I thoroughly enjoyed this YA mystery. It was engaging and suspenseful."

A reader from South Hadley read *Personal History* by Katharine Graham: "Enjoyed being reminded of the impact a powerful woman can have in our society."

A reader from Amherst read *The Soapbox Man* by Thomas Bohl: "Takes place in and around Boston. Very well developed, believable characters. Great story. Really kept my interest."

A reader from Belchertown read *A Killing of Innocents* by Deborah Crombie: "Over the years I have read all the books in this series. I not only enjoy the mystery, but also following the lives of the two married detectives."

A reader from Burlington read *Mean Streak* by Sandra Brown: "This was my first Sandra Brown book. I enjoyed the plot/suspense, but not the "romance.""

A reader from Melrose read *Lady Tan's Circle of Women* by Lisa See: "I wanted to like this book - very interesting subject of a 15th century female doctor in China. However, I felt little to no emotional connection with any of the characters, and the excessive descriptions of foot-binding were so distressing that I had to stop the book halfway through. Really - almost every chapter had some vivid description of the realities of that practice."

A reader from Hopkinton read *Eternal Echoes* by John O'Donohue: "It was extremely difficult to find an author with either my first or last name who had written something that I thought would be appealing to read. At my wife's suggestion, I ended up going with John O'Donohue even though I had not liked his poetry earlier this year. The book is a favorite of hers. I did not

like it. I appreciated some of his thought processes, but I thought that overall it did not connect to my lived experience.”

A reader from Springfield read *No place to lie* by Helen garlick: “I loved the book. I strongly relate to this book An I would recommend it, to others who have experienced it.”

A reader from Braintree read *The Hidden Letters* by Gina Ochsner: “A good novel depicting life and the many dynamics of family.”

A reader from Falmouth read *Field Trip to the Ocean Deep* by John Hare: “Charming children's picture book, delightful illustrations with no words so lots of scope for imagination and storytelling.”

A reader from Fitchburg read *To have and to kill* by Mary Jane clark: “Somewhat mundane and predictable.”

A reader from Beverly read *A Court of Thorns and Roses* by Sarah J Maas: “Not my favorite fantasy - felt like a beauty and the beast knock off.”

A reader from Husdon read *The Making of Biblical Womanhood* by Beth Allison Barr: “A must read for women and men alike, not limited to those of Evangelical faith. The author uses historic events and documents - including various translations of the Bible - to deepen the reader's understanding of the biblical history of womanhood. She provides cultural contexts of ancient and modern times to allow the reader to trace the influence of culture and societal norms on the ways in which the original word of God has been reinterpeted over the centuries, bringing with it important implications for the place of women in the church, at home, in the workforce, and in our society.”

A reader from Somerville read *The Bone Orchard* by Sara A. Mueller: “I'm kind of embarrassed to share a first name with this author; I thought the book was awful! The conceit of having one character split into different traits irritatingly fed into the madonna whore dynamic. It also took a really tepid stance on sexual violence, despite that being the ostensible topic.”

A reader from Longmeadow read *The family tree* by Sairish Hussain: “This book is a story of a Muslim family living in Britain and how they maneuver the challenges that family ties and loss throws at us and changes the way we think and process things. It’s moving tale that totally resonated with me.”

A reader from Lake Wobegon read *A Voice Out of Ramah* by Lee Killough: “Sci-fi novel about a planet where women are rugged ranchers and laborers, subordinate to an all-male hierarchy of "Shepherds" and Bishops. The book pushes back at gender roles and exposes a society governed by a corrupt, hypocritical religious authority. It was a fun read, but not brilliant literature!”

A reader from PEABODY read *Mastering the Marchioness* by Em Brown: "I thought the author did a great job on keeping historical references while keeping the book sexy."

A reader from Reading read *The Secret of the Old Clock* by Carolyn Keene: "Thought I would do a throwback for this challenge . The first author who came to mind for my first name Carolyn . It did not disappoint... love how she drove around in a convertible and her indomitable spirit!"

A reader from Belchertown read *What World Is This and Other Stories* by GLORIA Whelan: "Not only did I read a book with the author's given name the same as mine but I discovered a niche genre: Christian stories. All of the stories were submitted to a writing contest and Gloria Whelan's story, *What World Is This?*, was the winner. An interesting tale of children stating they have seen the Blessed Virgin Mary, build a shrine and the mother is fearing this is all a hoax. Won't spoil the ending but ALL stories made you think of your own spirituality."

A reader from Salem read *Family Lore* by Elizabeth Acevedo: "I love this author. She has a way with words and descriptions that make her characters come alive. This book is different from her usual fair but also just as amazing as all of her other novels."

A reader from Franklin read *This Is How We Do It* by Matt Lamothe: "There were two reasons I chose this book: (1) How many authors have the very same last name as me, Lamothe? (2) I work with children and am very intrigued by the content of the book! "This Is How We Do It," by Matt Lamothe is a collection of interviews from families in 7 different countries around the world. Matt Lamothe asks the children in each family the same questions, like: What are your favorite things to play? Who is in your family? What do you do during a day at school? What do you like to eat for dinner? It is so interesting to compare the similarities and differences in a day in the life of a young person from Italy, Peru, Iran, India, Uganda, and Russia. It is a short, but very cool book!"

A reader from Rochester read *Tapestry* by Beth Duke: "Seems like a very real depiction of the South - at least to this Midwestern raised girl. New author to me picked only because of sharing a first name. Am not finished as yet but have enjoyed finding a new author."

A reader from Amherst read *Floodtide* by Heather Rose Jones: "An elegant and delightful historical fantasy. Follows the working class Roz on her adventures in the 19th C kingdom of Alpenia. Full of Magic, lyrical writing and queerness."

A reader from Weymouth read *Small World* by Laura Zigman: "Not only did the author have the same first name as me, but the main character had my daughter's name as well as the same job that I have, so it felt like this was the book I was meant to read for this challenge. Overall I enjoyed it, but the dynamic between the protagonist and her sister--the central relationship of the story--was very frustrating to me and felt unresolved in the end. But the backstory of their childhood was poignant, and the posts on the "Small World" message board of their current Cambridge neighborhood were entertaining."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *A Muddy Red River* by D A Cairns: “Two estranged brothers whose lives are thrown into turmoil by tragedy. One returns from Thailand running from his poor decisions, while the stay-at-home brother reels from a death. When the book ends, they find peace with each other, with their lives and love too.”

A reader from Needham read *The Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese: “This novel has everything a multigenerational saga should: beautifully written, well drawn characters, a sense of place where the reader can live. I greatly appreciate the author’s evocation of life in Kerala over time, which rings true to my Malayali in-laws and to my own visits. Verghese has brought this corner of the world to greater attention. I will watch the expected film with interest. ”

A reader from Boston/ Yarmouth read *Mr. Nobody* by Catherine Steadman: “This is a story of a neuropsychiatrist who is called in to consult on a case of a man who is found wandering on a beach with no memory of his own identity. As the story develops, he recalls tragic details of the doctor’s secret past. It is not a genre I would ordinarily select but I am enjoying the novelty read.”

A reader from Weymouth read *The Farmer’s Daughter* by Jim Harrison: “So glad I was led to this book by the Reading Challenge! The Farmers Daughter is the first of three novellas included in the book and the one I liked the best. Sarah Holcomb is an incredibly strong and intelligent young woman, mature beyond her years, who has grown up in the Montana countryside.”

A reader from SUTTON read *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See: “I had no previous knowledge of the haenyeo diving craft tradition and absolutely no idea that humans could hold their breath for so long (the art of sumbisori). This novel is very well researched and broadened my understanding of the history of this Asian culture’s tradition.”

A reader from Salem read *Bone Gap* by Laura Ruby: “This has been my favorite book I've read for the challenge thus far! It was engaging and well written, and ended up incorporating elements of magical realism which I wasn't expecting, but which added a lot to the story. The plot concept of a boy with face blindness being the only one to witness the kidnapping of one of his best friends and the town's golden girl is so unique, and the novel hit on every point and moment I was waiting for and hoping would be included. It even managed to surprise me with a few twists and revelations that left me actually gasping out loud. My first 5 star review! :)”

A reader from MARSTONS MILLS read *The Overnight Guest* by Heather Gudenkauf: “Mystery & thriller, a woman stays in a house where two people were murdered and a teenager disappeared decades ago. She thinks she is alone, but after finding a child in the snow, realizes she might not be...”

A reader from Sandwich read *Find the good unexpected life lessons from a small town obituary writer* by Heather Lende: “It was very entertaining.”

A reader from SCITUATE read *Where Are the Children* by Mary Higgins Clark: "This author, sharing my first name, is fabulous and I question why I never read her books previously. I couldn't put this page turner down and it is the first of many, written by Mary Higgins Clark's that I'll be reading."

A reader from Brewster read *Fates and Furies* by Lauren Groff: "I had a hard time putting the book down! I read it in two sittings."

A reader from Shre read *Extraordinary People in the Movies* by Judy Hasday: "This book was written a few years ago so it's not up to date on deaths. Also, I can see Charlie Chaplin and Mary Pickford being mentioned but not Tom Cruise and Julia Roberts. I guess my idea of extraordinary differs from those of the author."

A reader from Shutesbury read *Wild and precious* by Mary Oliver, Sophia Bush, Busy Philipps, Carmen Maria Michado, Clare Bidwell, Smith, Rain Wilson, Ross Gay, Samin, Nosrat, Susan Cain: "This is a lovely book honoring Mary Oliver and her poetry read by many other writers including Mary Oliver herself. I'm afraid to say, there is only one mention of my name, a heron in one of Mary Oliver's Poem."

A reader from BEVERLY read *Love and Other Consolation Prizes* by Jamie Ford: "This book was gorgeous and different and I loved it. Plus, it takes place in Seattle, where I lived for a number of years."

A reader from Craryville read *Red Wagon* by Renata Liwska: "My name is rather unusual so the pickings were slim and I could only find a picture book at my library. Cute illustrations."

A reader from Sandwich read *Dog Flowers: A Memoir* by Danielle Geller: "This ended up being an enjoyable book to read; Geller writes beautiful prose and her training as an archivist shines through. I don't think I ever would have come across this book without this prompt, but I'm so happy I did."

A reader from Amherst read *All our hidden gifts* by Caroline O'Donoghue: "Truly remarkable, incredibly queer, and made me drive to the store to buy the next one immediately after finishing."

A reader from Waltham read *Butts* by Heather Radke: "More interesting than I expected. Veered into mostly a discussion of race by the end."

A reader from Marblehead read *Bomb Shelter: Love, Time and Other Explosives* by Mary Laura Philpott: "Excellent book, very well written."

A reader from Gill read *The Bloodhounds of Broadway and other stories* by Damon Runyon: "I had fun reading the escapades of characters who would later show up in *Guys & Dolls*."

A reader from Tewksbury read *Home is Where You Are* by Melissa Grace: “Cute romance between a baker and a rockstar.”

A reader from Weymouth read *The Sisters of Summit Avenue* by Lynn Cullen: “Fascinating story involving a family impacted by the infamous ‘sleeping sickness’ during the 1930’s. Who knew? You learn something new every day.”

A reader from Beverly Hills read *Quiet Dell* by Jayne Anne Phillips: “Excellent blending of history and imagination. The story, based on the 1931 murder of a family of mother and her three children was horribly sad, yet ended on a hopeful note. I plan to read some of Phillips other novels.”

A reader from East Bridgewater read *America for Beginners* by Leah Franqui: “This book has been on my TBR list for years since I saw it in a bookstore and it looked interesting; I'm glad I could finally use it for this challenge! I enjoyed the bits of added humor in the early chapters, but it otherwise felt very slow for the first ~200 pages. I did enjoy the last 1/3 of the book a lot more, but you've gotta paw through a lot to get to the reward.”

A reader from Reading read *A Flicker in the Dark* by Stacy Willingham: “It’s a fast-paced mystery/thriller with a triple-twist ending.”

A reader from Lowell read *This is Not the End* by Chandler Baker: “I chose this book because the author has the same last name as me! I was intrigued by the concept of the book - allowing people to choose to resurrect those they had lost. I enjoyed it and finished it quickly. But I had some issues with some of the choices the author made toward the end.”

A reader from Worcester read *The House Children* by Heidi Daniele: “A compelling story of an illegitimate girl growing up in an orphanage in Ireland who yearns so much for her mother. Little does she know how close she is.”

A reader from Erving read *The Mob & Me* by Arlene Violet & John Partington: “It's amazing what has to happen to protect those they want to protect to bring them to be witnesses to the mob. It's like protecting one criminal to accuse & bring to trial other criminals. It takes one rat down to bring down the mob but it's scary to think that actions might be happening in the government to bring down correction in one of the gov't parties in 2023.”

A reader from Northampton read *Farming It* by Henry Shute: “Okay, so he doesn’t actually share my name, but he is my great- great- grandfather. This was a very funny book and it was nice to have that connection.”

A reader from Uxbridge read *Way of the Willow* by Linda Shaw: “Linda Shaw was my maiden name and my sister bought this book for me over a decade ago as a laugh - plus I lived in Georgia for 8 years and it's a series Men Made in America - Georgia. It was entertaining and



more fun than I'd thought to read a "bodice ripper" type of book. I could see reading more for just mindless relaxation and predictability."

A reader from HUDSON read *Fifty Day of Solitude* by Doris Grumbach: "During the winter of 1993 in coastal Maine, the author isolates herself for fifty days. Surrounded only with music, paintings and literature, Doris cuts herself off from distractions and begins to listen more intently to her inner voice. Although this happened 30 years ago, it would behoove us in this world of social media to try to emulate what the author has done. At least for some length of time, if not for 50 days."

A reader from Springfield read *The Dinner Party* by Brenda Janowitz: "Not my favorite. Characters were too stereotyped and events predictable."

A reader from Salem read *Olive Kitteredge* by Elizabeth Strout: "I loved reading about New England. The slow, methodical pace of this book felt perfect for a character study."

A reader from Beverly read *Potions and Pajamas* by Keira Blackwood: "Quirky story that kept me entertained throughout. Of all the weird things that go on in this book, I'd say the romance is my least favorite part. Still a good beach read if you like fantasy and sci-fi."

A reader from Lunenburg read *Eat pray love* by Elizabeth Gilbert: "Enjoyed the travel parts of this memoir, but it felt somewhat surface-level."

A reader from Lynnfield read *How to Be Perfect: The Correct Answer to Every Moral Question* by Michael Schur: "Literally 'The Good Place' in book format, and written by its creator Michael Schur, who took the time to really study moral philosophy for the show and present it in an accessible and humorous way in this medium. I learned more about virtue ethics, utilitarianism, deontology, and other schools of thought from this book than I ever did in school!"

A reader from Falmouth read *Street Kid: One Child's Desperate Fight for Survival* by Judy Westwater : "This book was a captivating memoir of a woman whose childhood was absolutely horrifying. She faced so much adversity that at times it was hard to believe. But she made it through, and I believe she's written a sequel."

A reader from Yorba Linda read *The Set Up* by Lizzy Dent: "A young woman longs for love and must choose between destiny and the unknown vs the man who is right beside her."

A reader from Woods Hole read *Spare Change* by Zainab Afzal: "Some heart warming some heart wrenching poems.. a fun collection to read and think over."

A reader from Weymouth read *Run* by Ann Patchett: "Run is the story of a blending of families and the binding of a mother's love. Bernadette's children, Sullivan, Tip, and Teddy are raised by Doyle after her death. Kenya and her mother become involved with the the family and discoveries are made that change everyone's lives."

A reader from Beverly read *Out of My Life and Thought: An Autobiography* by Albert Schweitzer: "This autobiography is really different, being much more a retelling of his intellectual life--his philosophy, theology and writings, than of the events that he was part of and his actions. I learned a lot about a very interesting man. I think I would have enjoyed a chance to meet him in person."

A reader from Stoneham read *Dead and Doggone* by Susan Conant: "In the past I read some books from this mystery series set in Cambridge. I am now reading them all starting at the beginning. This is the 2d in the series. I had not read it before. It was good but not as memorable as the first."

A reader from Dighton read *Awkward Avocado* by C.J. Zachary: "Tough one for me, but went with the last name (and first of illustrator). My 6-year-old loved the story and illustrations in this children's book about individuality."

A reader from Essex read *The Rachel Incident* by Caroline O'Donoghue: "Good read and had some interesting characters. I was just over in the UK so fun reading it while visiting."

A reader from West Falmouth read *Nelson Mandela* by Bobbi Katz: "It's an inspiring story and easy to read with lots of good photos."

A reader from Lynnfield read *Bird, Bee & Bug Houses* by Derek Jones: "Full of simple projects for building small wildlife houses for birds, bugs, bees, and even bats. The book includes a section dedicated to some common tools and techniques for wood working, which is really helpful if you've never worked on small wooden building projects. Definitely recommend if you are interested in some basic small house designs for local wildlife."

A reader from Bolton read *neuromancer* by william gibson: "I love gibson's style of science fiction."

A reader from Somerville read *Hirschfeld's Hollywood* by David Leopold: "I have fond memories of searching for the Nina's in Hirschfeld's the Sunday NYT so enjoyed learning more about his career and especially his relationship with Hollywood."

A reader from North Reading read *I Swear: Politics is Messier than My Minivan* by Katie Porter: "This was a funny and unique political memoir. Katie Porter is a single mother and former professor who is known to most Americans as the congresswoman with the white board. Her voice is fresh and she is one to watch on the national stage! Glad we share a name =)"

A reader from Northampton read *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds: "A middle schooler finding track and running while dealing with both big and small issues is a great niche find for me."

A reader from Topsfield read *A Thirst for Rain* by Roslyn Carrington: "I've never read a book set in Trinidad before!"

A reader from Elbridge read *The Silent Pool* by Patricia Highsmith: "I read this because I wanted the 'Agatha Christie' feel. It's a period and style that I love. The book was moderately interesting, but no where near A.C. I probably won't read another."

A reader from Lowell read *All the Missing Girls* by Megan Miranda: "This book was okay; kept my interest but was a little confusing. I was expecting a bigger twist!"

A reader from East Sandwich read *Plato and Platypus Walk into a Bar* by Thomas Cathcart and Daniel Klein: "Fun...Philosophy!!!"

A reader from Buzzards Bay read *Essential Joinery* by Marc Spagnuolo: "Read about stuff i won't do by somebody not related to me. Factual. If i were into woodworking, this would be amazing."

A reader from Seekonk read *Girlfriend on Mars* by Deborah Willis: "Interesting concept in these days of reality shows. Girl applies and gets picked to participate in a reality show where the winner (one male, one female) gets to live on Mars. Her boyfriend of 14 years is left behind not knowing where their relationship stands. The book kept me interested as I wanted to see if she was a winner of the show and traveled to Mars."

A reader from Danvers read *Educated* by Tara Westover: "Just wow, what a story!"

A reader from Amherst read *Girl Waits With A Gun* by Amy Stewart: "I knew it would hard to find books by people with my last name so I went with my first. This book by Amy Stewart was enjoyable to read. It is a detective story based on a real person which made it more interesting. This was the first in the series aand I plan to read the others."

A reader from Hatfield read *The Grammarians* by Cathleen Schine: "Lovers of language will find this book delightful!"

A reader from Whately read *Murder By Page One* by Olivia Matthews: "I really enjoyed this book. I am not sure I would have discovered this first-in-series if I wasn't looking for an author who shared my name. Marvey's a librarian who moves from Brooklyn to Peach Coast, Georgia. A murder takes place in her best friend's bookstore. When her best friend becomes a suspect, she decides to investigate to find the truth. I felt like I present in this story. And as a bonus, a recipe for Classic Peach Cobbler was included."

A reader from Beverly read *The Darlings* by Hannah McKinnon: "Light, summery family drama set on the Cape. Not my favorite but an easy read."

A reader from Hopkinton read *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson: “Interesting bit of historical fiction, dealing with Blue People, and also the Pack Horse Library Project, both areas I knew nothing about.”

A reader from Methuen read *From To-Do to Done* by Maura Nevel Thomas: “Book two in a series of helpful how-tos on ways to prioritize your tasks and become more productive. The strategies can be incorporated into most routines to make the daily list of must-dos less overwhelming.”

A reader from Dracut read *The Saints of Swallow Hill* by Donna Everhart: “Turpentine farming during the Great Depression. Good story, glad I discovered this author.”

A reader from Plymouth read *Pax* by Sara Pennypacker: “I’ve seen this book on the shelves ever since it came out and it was far deeper than I ever expected. It was heartbreaking and inspiring all at once.”

A reader from West Simsbury read *The Truth About Unicorns* by Bonnie Jones Reynolds: “My maiden name is Bonnie Jones so when I saw this book at a used bookshop I had to buy it! I have had it on my shelf for over 20 years without reading it and this challenge got me to pull it down. Will just put it back to keep because my name is on the cover.”

A reader from Melrose read *The Lincoln Conspiracy: The Secret Plot to Kill America's 16th President--And Why It Failed* by Brad Meltzer and Josh Mensch: “A fabulous little known story about Lincoln before taking the Presidential Oath in Washington, D.C. An easier read than most non-fiction titles detailing Lincoln's life at any point.”

A reader from Winthrop read *The World's Wife* by Carol Ann Duffy: “Great poetry collection!”

A reader from Rochester read *Creating a family garden* by Bunny Guinness: “It seemed to cover lots of areas of developing a garden: terraces, tree houses, ball games, designing, small and large gardens, planting etc.”

A reader from YARMOUTH PORT read *Are you there God, It's me Margaret* by Judy Blume: “A short book which really captures the 12 year old girl focus.”

A reader from RANDOLPH read *The Odds* by Kathleen George: “This story is a crime novel with a heart. It follows a bad guy trying to turn his life around, 4 abandoned young siblings trying to stay together and detectives trying to solve several crimes. I think it's an OK book, not one I'd recommend. The many angles didn't quite connect and the ending was just The End.”

A reader from Holden read *When You Reach Me* by Rebecca Stead: “Written for a middle grade or YA audience, but fun for adults, too. The characters are relatable, and the story keeps you hooked — a super-fun read.”

A reader from Hampden read *The Good German* by Joseph Kanon: "Kanon has done a masterful job of combining a spy thriller, murder mystery and love story into one complex but cohesive historical novel. Jake Geismar and Lena Brandt are well drawn characters who lead us through this world of intrigue. Post-war Berlin emerges as the epicenter for the West's end of one confrontation in Nazi Germany to the beginning of the next world confrontation - the cold war with the USSR. Unless you finish the book, you will never know who the good guys or the bad guys truly are."

A reader from Boston read *State of Terror* by Hillary Clinton & Louise Penny: "A ridiculous plot which I thoroughly enjoyed."

A reader from Kingston read *Plymouth Undercover* by Pamela Kelley: "How I wish I found an author with my last name rather than my first because this book was so incredibly basic and boring, just a bunch of Plymouth based name dropping, wine and donuts. A true waste of time!"

A reader from Norton read *Hacked A Eulalie Park Mystery* by Fiona Snyckers: "This was a book whose main character shared my first name - no easy feat to find! Eulalie Park is a private investigator attempting to help solve a murder which may implicate her best friend. This story kept my attention as it wound it's way to a conclusion and is easy to read in a few short sittings."

A reader from Merrimac read *The Whale: A Love Story* by Mark Beauregard: "A chance meeting of two well-established authors sparks a relationship that will empower Herman Melville to write his greatest work. A fascinating look into the lives of New England's 1850s literary society and the tremendous influence that results."

A reader from Hudson read *The Book of Joan* by Melissa Rivers: "The book is made up of 50 short reminiscences about the author's mother, Joan Rivers. It contains many jokes that could be part of a standup-comedy act, but in between the jokes it presents a serious portrait of a remarkable woman."

A reader from Hadley read *Revolutionary Suicide* by Huey P. Newton: "Very engaging and personal."

A reader from Braintree read *Sky Without Stars* by Jessica Brody, Joanne Rendell: "An interesting retelling of Les Miserables."

A reader from Attleboro read *The Love Wager* by Lynn Painter: "It was a great book. It was predictable, but I enjoyed it very much. It was like a Hallmark movie!"

A reader from READING read *American Wake* by Kerrin McCadden: "I had trouble reading the difficult parts about her life as she is my husband's cousin. Her poetry flows, though I don't care for reading poetry."

A reader from Baldwinville read *Lighthouse* by Tony Parker: "I loved this oral history of the life of British lighthouse keepers in the 70s. In its recording of the mundane details of a lost career, it was fascinating."

A reader from Springfield read *Losing It* by Cora Carmack: "This book was a nice low-mid angst teacher x student romance that didn't feel overly forced."

A reader from Lowell read *A darker shade of magic* by V. E. Schwab: "Loved it, very fast paced and deliciously dark and viscous."

A reader from Wilmington read *Curses and Smoke: A Novel of Pompeii* by Vicky Alvear Shecter: "I liked this book! It brought me back to my days of taking Latin in high school where we learned about Pompeii. At times it seemed a little long, but overall it was a fun story. Cool to be reading something by someone with the same name as me."

A reader from Hampden read *a distant shore* by Karen Kingsbury: "Thought the book was ok. Predictable ending. Enjoyed the 1st half of the book better than the 2nd half."

A reader from Cambridge read *Book of Hope* by Jane Goodall: "Goodall's life is inspirational and give us hope--especially young people-- for our ailing planet. Keep the faith!"

A reader from Woods Hole read *The Long Call* by Ann Cleeves: "Good romp in the north Devon area of UK. Interesting character development and diverse issues."

A reader from Scituate read *Beneath the wide silk sky* by Emily Inouye Huey: "Beautiful and heartbreaking historical non-fiction story of a Japanese-American girl before the US internment camps built to intern people of Japanese ancestry during WW2."

A reader from Weston read *The Moon is a Silver Pond* by Sara Cassidy: "The lesson of the book is there are all different meanings to the moon. It looks like a pancake to me."

A reader from Weston read *The Great Chicago Fire* by Marc Tyler Nobleman: "It told lots of interesting facts. and it reminded me of my family because there is a leary and it was there to. it was very helpful and iterating to learn about the Chicago fire."

A reader from Wilmington read *The Poison Tree* by Erin Kelly: "Very satisfying suspense novel, with an interesting, if not totally surprising, twist at end."

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Boston: A to Z* by Thomas H. O'Connor: "The book was a delightful history of Boston, delivered using an unconventional organization. Instead of year, the author organizes his essays according to letter of the alphabet. I don't think that it's the most effective way to teach history, but it allows the author to provide interesting details that normally are lost in conventional histories. It made me want to start visiting Boston again."

A reader from Dracut read *The collector* by Daniel Silva: "Enjoyed."

A reader from Belchertown read *Working Stiff* by Judy Melinek: "This memoir was incredibly descriptive and sharp. I loved how the author used straightforward language to talk about some of the most tragic stories through her work as a pathologist. There were some moments I had to put the book down though because the description made me a bit queasy."

A reader from Hanover read *Louis the tiger who came from the sea* by Michal Kozlowski: "The book is cute and kinda silly."

A reader from Dracut read *The collector* by Daniel Silva: "Good times."

A reader from Hampden read *Elegance* by Kathleen Tessaro: "About a woman who is going through insecurity in her marriage. She finds an old copy of a book called *Elegance*. She thinks she has found her answers. Each section is alphabetical. A light book with a tinge of humor. I read her book *The Perfume Collector* in book club 2018."

A reader from Lowell read *Red On The River* by Christine Feehan: "I liked the idea of the plot, but not how it unfolded in the book. I did enjoy the strong female friendships."

A reader from Sandwich read *3 Beverly Cleary Ramona books* by Beverly Cleary: "Before there was Mr. Rogers's television show for children, there was Beverly Cleary's dozens of books about children, for children and the ups and downs of growing up. I read 3 books from the RAMONA series, a SPUNKY youngster who has the hopes, fears and dreams of most children while growing up in a loving family. Brought back my memories especially the fun ones."

A reader from Amherst read *Still Waters* by Viveca Sten: "Although I know could have picked a book by an author named Jenny, I wanted to try to see if I could find something with my much-less-common last name. This Swedish mystery novel features two victims who are cousins named Berggren, so I decided to pick this one! A satisfying Scandinavian noir mystery."

A reader from Plainville read *GRIT* by Angela Duckworth: "I think it was a great success story that proves that you don't need to be "born with it" to become it. The passage about babies who don't mind learning from mistakes really brought my mind to present and how as adults, we don't order ourselves the same grace. We are supposed to learn it, get it, move on. In school, we do a test and if we fail it we are left with that grade. We don't have to make up tests to truly reflect our mistakes and try again. So we desert things that don't come naturally to us."

A reader from Franklin read *The Last Thing He Told Me* by Laura Dave: "This book was very suspenseful. It was a true page turner."

A reader from Fitchburg read *The Goodnight Train Halloween* by June Sobel: "A cute rhyming children's Halloween book."

A reader from Somerville read *This Time Tomorrow* by Emma Straub: "I laughed and cried. It made me miss my childhood. I want to see my parents!"

A reader from Palmer read *Blue Horses* by Mary Oliver: "Much of the poetry is about nature and the poet narrator's relationship to it, a common theme of Mary Oliver's poetry. I especially liked "The Hummingbirds" and "Such Silence," followed by "The Fourth Sign of the Zodiac" which was longer than the others and in reaction to the author's cancer diagnosis, with thoughts on the transience of life and how we always want it to be a bit longer."

A reader from Beverly read *At the Water's Edge* by Sara Gruen: "Some parts of this book seemed slow while other parts seemed like they went too fast, but overall, I enjoyed this book once I got to know the characters."

A reader from Hamilton read *Yes Please* by Amy Poehler: "Interesting read but I don't love books written by celebrities."

A reader from SOUTH YARMOUTH read *Natalie Tan's Book of Luck and Fortune* by Roselle Lim: "Interesting to read about the Chinese culture in America. I did enjoy how foods, superstitions, love, music, and accountability to community were expressed. (The author shares my given middle name, which is not very common at all!)"

A reader from West Falmouth read *The Shopkeepers from Red Hill* by Thomas Cleary: "An Irish tale of the Clearys and their homes and life in Ireland."

A reader from Rochester read *Creating a family garden* by Bunny Guinness: "The book covered many, many topics: tree houses, garden designs, etc."

A reader from Worcester read *Pipi Longstocking* by Astrid Lindgren: "Enjoyable children's series about a little girl named Pipi Longstockings and all her adventures."

A reader from Melrose read *Devon Ghost Tales* by Janet Downing: "Believe me, I tried. This might be a great category for anyone whose name is William. My first attempt was *One for the Money* by Janet Evanovich. I just could not read it. In desperation I turned to this dull collection of ghost tales. Sorry."

A reader from Scituate read *Cassandra in Reverse* by Holly Smale: "I liked this novel though it did take me some time to get into it. Maybe it spoke to me as I am feeling 'lost' or just missing something, similar as the main character is."

A reader from Three Rivers read *In a Holiday* by Christina Lauren: "It was a nice light read after my choice in August. It was funny and full of interesting characters."



A reader from AUBURN read *Scandalous Women of the Old West* by Donna Pedace: "This book is delightfully informative. It showcases a dozen women - Scandalous Women of the Old West - from business mavens to high-powered gamblers and saloon owners, gunslingers, robbers, diamond miners, mule pack-train operator and everything in between. Many women openly smoked cigarettes and drank spirits. Cue the smelling salts. Stellar stories and fun read."

A reader from Springfield read *Only the Beautiful* by Susan Meissner: "Heartrending story of a young girl with an unusual talent and the harrowing experience life hands out to her. Excellent story."

A reader from Charlton read *Before She Disappeared* by Lisa Gardner: "Well written thriller about a woman who spends her life trying to solve missing person cold cases."

A reader from Milford read *The Boys of My Youth* by Jo Ann Beard: "This collection of autobiographical essays didn't emotionally engage me until I reached 'The Fourth State of Matter' almost half way through the collection. The rest of the essays were excellent, so I'm glad I hung in there."

A reader from Beverly read *The Boys: A Memoir of Hollywood and Family* by Ron and Clint Howard: "A mostly warm look at a pretty extraordinary childhood. It was a very enjoyable read."

A reader from Fitchburg read *While Justice Sleeps* by Stacey Abrams: "This book was very interesting. I enjoyed it a lot."

A reader from Florence read *Waking Beauty: Or Eleven Times Upon a Time* by Rebecca Solnit: "Loved the revision of the traditional fairytale Sleeping Beauty, and the chance to 'indulge' in reading a book classified for children. I adore anything Rebecca Solnit writes!"

A reader from Chicopee read *Violeta* by Isabel Allende: "I could not find a book at my library written by anyone with my first and last name. Isabel is my mothers name, so I figured this one would do. This book was painful and joyous and devastating and empathetic to people living under the weight of oppressive capitalism and neoliberalism. 10/10."

A reader from Boston read *Things you save in a fire* by Katherine Center: "I loved this book! It was a fun, light read that had great characters and also tackled some bigger issues while still being a cute and easy romance novel. I've discovered a new author!"

A reader from Niantic read *Oona out of Control* by Margarita Montimore: "About a woman who time travels, every year on her birthday. A bit confusing with the forward and back and the knowledge she Carry's with her but fascinating. I have many nicknames and several friends call me Margarita."

A reader from Salem read *All Good Things* by Amanda Prowse: "This is not a book I would have picked up off the shelves naturally, but with the reading challenge, I had to find a book by an author named Amanda. Ultimately I did end up enjoying this read, grass is not always greener, be thankful for what you have. This was also an interesting read about family trials and tribulations."

A reader from North Reading read *Lessons In Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus: "I thought I would like this book more. The ending in particular felt the most unsatisfying."

A reader from South Easton read *Queenpin* by Megan Abbott: "A dark and twisting noir that's not for the faint of heart!"

A reader from Lowell read *We the animals* by Justin Torres: "A wildly vivid journey of hard times, life and family."

A reader from Beverly read *The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot* by Marianne Cronin: "What a lovely story about the friendship between 17 year old Lenni and 83 year old Margot. They are both terminally ill and they decide to paint pictures telling the stories of their combined 100 years on earth. A surprisingly uplifting book."

A reader from Plymouth read *A Crash of Fate* by Zoraida Cordova: "A cool story taking place in the Star Wars universe. I definitely wouldn't have picked up a book like this outside of this challenge but I'm glad that I read it."

A reader from Sutton read *The Boys Club* by Erica Katz: "One thing I took from this is I'm glad I did not become a lawyer as I enjoy having a work-life balance."

A reader from MIDDLEBORO read *Luck & Last Resorts* by Sarah Grunder Ruiz: "This was a cute romance novel but a bit too slow for me to really love it! 3/5 stars."

A reader from Worcester read *Last Chance Books* by Kelsey Rodkey: "Maybe I'm just picky, but this definitely wasn't the book for me. I found the narrator kind of insufferable; that said, I couldn't put it down."

A reader from Tewksbury read *George vs. George* by Rosalyn Schanzer: "This is a children's book but there aren't a lot of Rosalyns so I did the best I could! I read this when I was little and really loved it, so I got it back off the shelf to enjoy again."

A reader from Beverly read *N is for Noose* by Sue Grafton: "A story about a female Private Eye. It's the only book of Sue Grafton's that I've read. I don't think I'll read another one."

A reader from Enfield read *A Terror Triptych* by Kasey Fallon: "So glad I got introduced to this author. It's a self published indie book and by far one of my favorites from the challenge so far!"

A reader from Stanford read *Resilience* by Betty Ann Connelly: "An inspiring memoir about flight, fear and forgiveness . The author conveys the power of the human spirit as she faces and overcomes the darkness and trauma of her past."

A reader from Salem read *The magnificent lives of Marjorie Post* by Allison Pataki: "Very interesting story based on the family behind Post cereal company!!"

A reader from Buckland read *Those Who Ride The Night Winds* by Nikki Giovani: "I usually don't enjoy poetry. However, I really enjoyed the works of this author. I found I could relate to them and that they are especially relevant to our world today."

A reader from Beverly read *About This Life* by Barry Lopez: "I went with a Lopez, my maiden name, because I couldn't wade through all the Nora Roberts books to find someone else. Barry Lopez's book turned out to be part in-depth travelogue and part memoir. Very good."

A reader from Hampden read *The Tide Between Us* by Olive Collins: "Thoroughly enjoyed Part One. I found Part Two a little hard to follow, but it came together in the end."

A reader from Chester read *Hex Hall* by Rachel Hawkins: "Interesting magical creature boarding school story. Solid start of the series."

A reader from Beverly read *The Notebook* by Nicholas Sparks: "I loved the book so much. The ending was so sad, yet I loved everything about it. Every detail and every word was used to perfection in this book."

A reader from Ipswich read *Mr. Churchill's Secretary: A Maggie Hope Mystery* by Susan Elia Macneal: "If you love British historical mysteries set in WW II with a female heroine...this is the series for you. I just found a new series to read."

A reader from Stoneham read *Witches Abroad* by Terry Pratchett: "Granny Waxweather and Nanny Ogg crack me up so this was an easy read."

A reader from Taunton read *Death at the BBC* by John Sherwood: "I chose to use my maiden name. This book was set in London, pre WWII. I enjoyed it! Language and writing style were obviously from another era, but the characters and plot twists kept me interested!"

A reader from Plymouth read *Scottish folklore and folk-life* by Donald Mackenzie: "A extensive look into Scottish myth and legend and what it meant to the people."

A reader from Sandwich read *Iona Iverson's Rules for Commuting* by Clare Pooley: "Somewhere between a Frederik Backman and a Richard Osman book, this story was filled with an eclectic cast of characters and fun twists."

A reader from Haverhill read *How to Be A Woman Online: Surviving Abuse and Harassment, and How to Fight Back* by Nina Jankowicz: "A good reminder and helpful tips relating to our online presence and good habits. A how-to and warning on dealing with online trolls and digital and physical safety."

A reader from Scituate read *Super Sick: Making Peace with Chronic Illness* by Allison Alexander: "Relatable content but references to shows and books that I don't know were a bummer."

A reader from Tewksbury read *Proust and the Squid* by Maryanne Wolf: "An interesting explanation on how the brain is rewired to create and understand written language."

A reader from Woods Hole read *Out of Ireland* by Kerry Miller and Paul Wagner: "I found out more information about what my grandmother would have experienced when she came to America about 1888. She missed the worst of the famine. Sadly, she died when my mother was only 16 so I never did get to know her myself."

A reader from Burlington read *Land of Milk and Honey* by C. Pam Zhang: "Make sure you have plenty to eat while you're reading, because this book will make you hungry."

A reader from Halifax read *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris: "Having read many accounts, both fiction and non-fiction, of concentration camps, I found this tale highly unbelievable. I enjoyed the story, but had trouble suspending belief regarding some of the things that the tattooist was able to do."

A reader from Belchertown read *Better Haunts and Garden Gnomes* by Michelle M. Pillow: "Perfect read for the start of fall!"

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Last of the Moon Girls* by Barbara Davis: "Sadly it felt like it was cribbed from Alice Hoffmann. Perhaps it'll become a Hallmark movie."

A reader from Fall River read *The Sunrise Runners: Running from Disaster* by Aubrey Parr: "It was fun finding a book like this, written by someone with my name, especially because mine is so unique!"

A reader from Hanover read *Barbara Bush: A Memoir* by Barbara Bush: "Barbara is a great writer and kept diaries of her travels. She was a most amazing woman, feisty, confident and supportive of members of the family. It was a pleasure to read about her, since she is generally out of the spotlight now. All five of her children added to this book. A treat."

A reader from Longmeadow read *The Tulip and the Pope* by Deborah Larsen: "This memoir tells the story of the author's journey from her entry into a convent to become a nun in 1960 to her return to the secular world in 1965. I enjoyed learning about her life and experiences during a period of time that I remember but in a place and situation that I knew little about. The story is

told in short chapters, which I found worked well in keeping the narrative lively. Enjoyable read all around."

A reader from Attleboro read *Nine liars* by Maureen Johnson: "I thought this book was hard to follow. There were a lot of things going on at the same time. Then it all seemed to fall in place."

A reader from Northampton read *Lulu and the Dog from the Sea* by Hilary McKay: "A sweet tale of two intrepid friends, an old tired dog, and a young wild dog."

A reader from SPRINGFIELD read *When the Vibe Is Right* by Sarah Dass: "A cute modern reimagining of "Much Ado About Nothing" set in Trinidad. Tess and Brandon can't stand each other but have to band together to save Tess' uncle's Carnival Mas Band. An enemies to lovers theme, handled realistically, giving all the teen characters agency and humor."

A reader from Rockland read *Killer Librarian* by Kirwin, Mary Lou: "This fun whodunit features the titular character, a 40-something librarian from Minnesota who was dumped by a long-time boyfriend just before a mutual trip to London. This cozy mystery is a book-lover-of-a-certain-age delight!"

A reader from Holden read *The Yellow Bird Sings* by Jennifer Rosner: "This was a historical fiction novel about a Jewish mother and daughter hiding from Nazi authorities in Poland during WWII. The pair have nothing to sustain them except their love and a mutual love of music which is a theme that comes and goes throughout the book. When it is necessary for mother and daughter to separate, music keeps them connected even if they do not know it. I liked the addition of music to a story which has many iterations in historical fiction already."

A reader from Wilmington read *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins: "A good suspenseful book."

A reader from Beverly read *The Candy House* by Jennifer Egan: "The book has a lot of potential with its fictionalized technology that is easy to imagine existing in our world. However, the various narratives, though connected, seemed to unravel and lose their impact on real-world consequences with a weak ending."

A reader from Dracut read *Slow Love: How I Lost My Job, Put On My Pajamas & Found Happiness* by Dominique Browning: "I thought this was a good read on getting fired, and finding out one's meaning or purpose."

A reader from Leominster read *No one ever asked* by Katie Ganshert: "Loved it! Talked about racism and prejudice from multiple angles. Have great perspective and kept me interested! Quick read."

A reader from Northampton read *Radar Girls* by Sara Ackerman: "It was a quick and easy read that transported me to another time and place!"

A reader from Stoneham read *Letter to a young poet* by Rainer Maria Rilke: "Listen to the letters being read aloud on YouTube. They were not very long but interesting to hear."

A reader from Reading read *Being You* by Anil Seth: "I picked up the book BEING YOU by author Anil Seth, just because I had to pick up a book with my first or family name. I normally I would not have read such a book and was pleasantly surprised how interesting it was."

A reader from Newton read *Looking for Jane* by Heather Marshall: "A timely and appropriate look into pre-Roe v Wade times in America."

A reader from Agawam read *Our Crooked Hearts* by Melissa Albert: "I can't say this is a book I would have picked up and read on my own without the challenge in mind. I thought it was okay but I didn't love it."

A reader from Lowell read *Witches of East End* by Melissa De La Cruz: "I was really into the show so I liked the characters right away and was interested in how they differed and how the stories differed."

A reader from Danvers read *Vacationland* by Meg Mitchell Moore: "I really enjoyed this book because it takes place in an area that I have spent time in, in Maine. It was fun to read about all the little references. And this is a local author too!"

A reader from Reading read *The Tail of Emily Windsnap* by Liz Kessler: "Charming and entertaining, this book of self discovery and acceptance would have been re-read often by my 12-year-old self."

A reader from Hopedale read *Let's Take the Long Way Home* by Gail Caldwell: "A personal memoir of Gail Caldwell including her turning away from drink, a best friend who she loses to cancer and her relationship and death of her dog, Clementine I felt it rambled at times and by going back and forth, was confusing. She really did share all her innermost thoughts. Very personal."

A reader from Beverly read *Airick Flies High* by Eric Gaffney: "I don't really like picture books but it was challenging to find something appropriate for my age group. I liked the meaning behind this book and how it shows that you should follow your dreams no matter what."

A reader from Beverly read *Credible Threats* by Daniel Meyer: "A delightful YA novel with wizards, demons, and high schoolers! It was really fun to read such an enjoyable book by my name twin."

A reader from Gill read *All This Could Be Different* by Sarah Thankam Mathews: "The book covers difficult topics but offers a note of hope. Faced with the crushing forces of capitalism, the characters choose to build meaningful friendship and community."

A reader from Westminster read *Vitruvian Man: Rome Under Construction* by John Oksanish: "This time I'm going to plug my son, John Matthew Oksanish's book. Challenge yourself and learn something new about Ancient Rome with this important new reading. Kudos to you, John!"

A reader from Fitchburg read *My Brilliant Friend* by Elena Ferrante: "Well, I tried to read a book by someone who shares my first name. However I struggled to even get to the halfway point of this book. As a bestseller, I guess I missed what's so captivating about it."