A reader from Orleans read *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen: Another classic that I have not read.

A reader from Scituate read *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus: I loved the tv series and love the book even more. Should be required reading.

A reader from Foxborough read *The Expatriots* by Janice Y.K. Lee: This book would be a great summer, poolside read. It inspired the Amazon series. It does vary quite a bit from the series (which was awful) but that also was interesting.

A reader from Somerville read *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus: Elizabeth Zott is a female chemist in the late 1950s - early 1960s. One of the few women in her field, she faces sexual assault and misogyny at every turn until she meets and falls in love with Calvin Evans. After Calvin's death, she realizes she is pregnant with Mad -- and is fired because of her pregnancy. She goes on to gain fame hosting a daytime cooking show that uses chemistry to inspire women everywhere to fight for societal change.
A reader from New Bedford read *The Other Black Girl* by Zakiya Dalila Harris: a relatable main character. A surprising sci-fi, thriller twist. I love that it's set in publishing world, a setting I'd love to be in one day. I hope this author makes this a kind of series. I started reading this book a year ago, so decided to finish it up for this challenge. So glad that I did. I like it more upon finishing it as I can see how she threaded her way through the themes and how she left hints for readers.

A reader from Chelmsford read *Jaws* by Peter Benchley: Good never read book before only saw the movies. I didn’t know the author had done so much research on sharks. Interesting bonus materials about writing the book.

A reader from Lincoln read *Beartown* by Fredrik Backman: Amazing start of impactful series.

A reader from Lincoln read *Luckiest Girl Alive* by Jessica Knoll: interesting twists.

A reader from Amherst read *American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen Yang: A graphic novel that paints a fantastical picture of the turmoil that comes with being non-white in a predominantly white society and the sheer hell of being a teenage boy, it served as basis for the short-lived eponymous TV show on Disney+. Mixing Chinese folklore, themes of identity and racism, and action packed sequences reminiscent of wuxia films, the novel is poignant, wise and very funny, too.

A reader from Marblehead read *Mystic River* by Dennis Lehane: A very good story with a very surprising ending. It was cool how he included the names of real Boston streets in fictitious Buckingham neighborhood. Cool how had things happening in Chelsea. South Boston, and other areas, as well.

A reader from Northfield read *Dune* by Frank Herbert: Dune is a science fiction novel about a boy Paul Atreides who travels to the planet Arrakis with his family. His family has been chosen to rule the inhospitable planet and control the mining of the spice "melange", which is a drug that can extend life and enhance consciousness. I had not seen any of the Dune movies prior to reading the book. The book was a hard start for me, but after the first 50 pages, I could not put it down. It was a great read.

A reader from Middleboro read *The Girl On The Train* by Paula Hawkins: I enjoyed this book a lot. It captured me right at the beginning and had me enticed throughout the entire book. I thought the killer was the killer for a while then I said it had to be the man with red hair til I got to the end of the book and found out it was Tom who was the killer. It was so good I read it in 2 days. I would highly recommend this book to any teenager on up to adults.

A reader from Spencer read *The Martian* by Andy Weir: Great book. As is usual the book is even better than the movie. True Science Fiction, it reads as though this is how a mission to Mars would start, and how each problem could actually be solved. Andy Weir is a new favorite, Project Hail Mary was great and I am looking forward to Artemis

A reader from Wilmington read *Call the Midwife: A Memoir of Birth, Joy and Hard Times* by Jennifer Worth: As beautiful to read as to watch the TV Series on PBS. Nursing at its finest.

A reader from Northampton read *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green.

A reader from Somerville read *You* by Caroline Kepnes: It was a good read, similar to the show!

A reader from Dracut read *The Outsiders* by SE Hinton: A reread of the classic!

A reader from Attleboro read *Never Go Back* by Lee Child: A Jack Reacher novel. My favorite series. A film with Tom Cruise with the same name. I was anxious to read this novel because it is a sequel to Worth
Dying For and A Wanted Man in the series. I found myself disturbed by some of the violence Reacher commits, and the ending written for the big bosses was unsatisfactory.

A reader from Belchertown read Room by Emma Donoghue: For June's prompt of "a book that inspired a film or television series", I chose to read "Room" by Emma Donoghue. The reader follows Jack, a five-year-old boy who was born in a room where his mother has been captive for seven years after being kidnapped. From living inside "Room" to experiencing the outside world, the reader sees everything through his eyes, including his mother's trauma. The book was haunting and emotional, and I was up into the wee hours of the morning hoping for both Jack and his mother to find safety and happiness. After reading the book I then watched the film, which Donoghue also wrote the screenplay for, and which was directed by Lenny Abrahamson. While it had some differences, it was an overall faithful adaptation that held the emotion and investment in the characters and their fates. I would definitely recommend reading and watching both!

A reader from Rindge read Killing Eve by Luke Jennings: I didn’t love this book, I found it to be extremely simplistic. I am going to watch the show, but I won’t read any more in the series.

A reader from Sharon read Krystal Marquis by The Davenports: I found this book very disappointing.

A reader from EDGARTOWN read The Bostonians by Henry James: Fascinating. Love James!

A reader from Beverly read Benjamin Franklin An American Life by Walter Issacsion: Walter Issacson says that Ben Franklin sought to bring America into an Enlightenment era that exalted tolerance, individual merit, civic virtue, good deeds, and rationality. What was good for the United States in the 1770s still seems good for us now in 2024.

A reader from Spencer read All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr: I can see why this would become a Netflix series. Following Marie-Laure (a blind girl) and how her father takes care of her before and then when the German occupation hits and they have to move. It's an interesting story about a blind girl during WWII and much more!

A reader from NORTH ATTLEBORO read Philomena: a mother, her son, and a fifty-year search - Sixsmith, Martin. by Martin Sixsmith: Saw the film first - the book was so very different!

A reader from Indian Orchard read Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro: Didn’t expect to like this as much as I did in the end. Almost would have been more powerful as a short story. Really appreciated and felt deeply sad when I reached the denouement.


A reader from Hadley read Quicksabd by Jun'ichirō Tanizaki: Told from the retrospective confessional point of view of a very unreliable narrator, Quicksand takes readers on a wild ride of the events that unfold once a bored housewife begins an affair with a female classmate from art school. It is no wonder this inspired four film adaptations as it is a fast-paced page turner that is full of surprises at every twist of the plot. I first read this about 12 years ago, and it was every bit as enjoyable on the second reading. I highly recommend!

A reader from Chelmsford read Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus: An enjoyable read.

A reader from SOUTH HADLEY read Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret by Judy Blume: I read this book yesterday, on June 1, in about 2 hours time. Confession: I had read this book as a child, but we are
talking a few decades ago now.. my mom gave me this book when I was young because I also come for a family with multiple religions. It was such a a relatable book for me as a kid. Reading it again as an adult was a unique experience. This book is great for preteen girls, but oh man the nuances I only picked up on as an adult are pretty incredible too. I am so glad i read this book again. And now, to watch the movie!

A reader from South Hadley read *Apples Never Fall* by Liane Moriarty: Interesting plot. Very good read!

A reader from Melrose read *Flamin' Hot: The Incredible True Story of One Man's Rise From Janitor to Top Executive* by Richard Montanez: This is one of the most fabulous autobiographical books I have read in a long time! I hope many will read this and take away something.

A reader from Sunderland read *The Last Thing He Told Me* by Laura Dave: I would recommend this book. I recently learned that Reese Witherspoon has a book club, like Oprah, and it features books with strong women leads. That is what prompted me to choose this one. I will look for others, now. It was made into a mini series in 2023.

A reader from Basking Ridge read *Kristy's Big Day* by Ann Martin.

A reader from Derry read *Project Hail Mary* by Andy Weir: Loved it. Movie based on the book is being made now starring Ryan Gosling.

A reader from Santa Cruz read *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr: Loved this book. I was enthralled with the characters. I love radio so I enjoyed that aspect of this mesmerizing story.

A reader from North Attleboro read *Brooklyn* by Colm Toibin: I really liked this book, I'm embarrassed that I waited so long! After I finished it, I watched the movie. The book is always better, but I think the movie was very well done.

A reader from Attleboro read *Our Souls at Night* by Kent Haruf: Addie and Louis are neighbors, both widowed, when Addie approaches Louis to share night times together to ease loneliness. Touching story, beautifully and simply written. Became a critically acclaimed Netflix film.

A reader from Dracut read *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Shaffer: Loved it!

A reader from Somerville read *Room* by Emma Donoghue: I saw the movie version of this book years ago before I knew it was a book. I really enjoyed the way this book was written. I felt the character of Jack was a very true showing of a child having to adapt to his whole world changing. The concept of the book has been done before, however I found it really interesting that we got an "after the fact" view as well. These characters didn't just escape, they had to rediscover their lives as well.

A reader from Arlington read *The Martian* by Andy Weir: I enjoyed the science and the problem solving and the creativity. The narration style was awkward at times, and I could do without lines like "In space, no one can hear you scream like a little girl."

A reader from Pittsfield read *The DaVinci Code* by Dan Brown: I read this book years ago and watched the movie as well. Then last year, I rewatched the movie and then this past spring when I went to the funeral service for a Mason, I decided I wanted to re-read the book for the June challenge. It was so fun to read and had so much more in it than the movie. I had forgotten all the action that the book contained. Dan Brown is an excellent writer and keeps this fast-paced novel moving. The movie was also good and in many ways was true to the novel, but there is much in the novel that did not make it into the movie. I suggest reading the book and then watching the movie! Enjoy!
A reader from North Easton read *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus: This book was good! Funny, quirky, love, loss, anger and a lot of supporting women. Very, very well done. Great read! I like Elizabeth and I love Mad!

A reader from Pepperell read *The Last Thing He Told Me* by Laura Dave: I was hooked from the start! A great storyline, part family drama part mystery (without be SO complex that one cannot keep up and keep characters straight). It lived up to the hype.

A reader from Northampton read *Prozac Nation* by Elizabeth Wurtzel: I never watched the movie but read this book when it came out and decided to read it again. This time I was quite moved by Wurtzel's writing and story, now coming from a place of looking back at the times she writes about (we are about the same age) and also being the parent of two young adults about the age she was when she wrote this. Wurtzel's epilogue from 2017 really moved me too, and knowing (spoiler alert) that she died in 2020 far too young and from cancer just seems horribly tragic and wrong given all she survived. A tough read for sure, but I'm very glad I revisited this one.

A reader from Hanson read *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus: A very relevant tale about how women were treated in the workplace many years ago, especially the sciences. I liked that Elizabeth Zott didn't give up and treated her research with so much importance. She had one obstacle after another thrown at her, but she picked herself up after each setback and continued on. I thoroughly enjoyed the canine character, six-thirty -- he was comic relief and a great narrator to the story. I saw the television series before reading the book, which is usually my preferred order of things. Loved the show, then reading the book fleshes out the details, and I already have a visual in my head of who's who.

A reader from Amherst read *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann: *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI* by David Grann is a gripping and informative true crime story that is a perfect fit for readers who are fascinated by the intersection of history, mystery, and the struggles of Native American communities, and who will be drawn in by the dark and sinister tale of one of the most monstrous crimes in American history.

A reader from WAKEFIELD read *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer & Annie Barrows: I passed this book over when it came out in 2008 since it looked kind of old lady-ish. Well, it is sort of, but in a wonderful, engaging, heartwarming way. Epistolary novel set in 1946 in London and Guernsey; curious and vivacious journalist learns about the German occupation of Guernsey during WWII. Funny, sad, engaging- I could not put it down and devoured it in a couple of days. Will I go see the Netflix movie on which it's based? I'd like to see the scenery but the characters are so vivid for me, I'm afraid of miscasting. Now I want to travel to Guernsey! Highly recommend.

A reader from Plymouth read *Kindred* by Octavia Butler: I enjoyed the book much more than the Hulu tv series.

A reader from Springfield read *Delicious in Dungeon* by Ryōko Kui: The anime has gotten a lot of hype lately, so I tried reading the manga and it did not disappoint!

A reader from Plainville read *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus: Loved this book! I flew through it. The characters in the story are so interesting and how the author weaves them all together from Walter Pine to Mrs. Frank it keeps you turning the pages. Elizabeth Zott’s story with its ups and downs was a page turner. Probably my favorite character was six thirty. Highly recommend!
A reader from Amesbury read *The Flight Attendant* by Chris Bohjalian: This book started off well, but then it felt like it never really went anywhere. A lot of important things seemed to happen "off screen" in the background and then the ending was kind of a let down.

A reader from Chicopee read *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris: I couldn't put this book down. It is not only a love story set in the most unlikeliest of places, but also a tale of survival at all costs.

A reader from Somerville read *Sharp Objects* by Gillian Flynn: Overall a solid read, was able to figure out the ending about halfway through but overall an interesting read about mother/daughter relationships, the south, and the expectations set upon women.

A reader from Newton Upper Falls read *Erasure* by Percival Everett: Here's a recommended Book Club activity: Have the members read "Erasure" and watch the film based upon it, "American Fiction," and then discuss the significant differences (beginning with the title) between the two. I would enjoy particularly discussing this question: Why do you think Everett devoted 60 pages of his novel to quoting, presumably in its entirety, the parody-of-black-life novel that the protagonist writes?

A reader from Woods Hole read *Going Into Town* by Roz Chast: Loved It!!! Reminded me of my forays into NYC and then living there.

A reader from Hyannis read *All the light we cannot see* by Anthony Doerr: Another great book.

A reader from Arlington read *Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro: I actually bought this on a whim when I was browsing a bookstore and found out this was made into a film in 2010. The book turned out to be a genre I would otherwise not have read but the direction the book went in ended up in a thoughtful discussion of what it means to be human, the endurance of memory and of friendship. I would be interested to see the film at some point.

A reader from Brookline read *Anxious People* by Frederick Backman: I loved this book, as it really intrigued me and kept me on the edge of my seat. Backman has such a unique writing style, as it felt like my friend was just telling me a story. I did not completely love the characters, but overall, one of the best novels I have read this year so far.

A reader from East Longmeadow read *To All The Boys I’ve Loved Before* by Jenny Han: I’ve rewatched the movie about a dozen times prior to reading the book. I honestly can’t say I’ll ever get tired of the series, especially the first book. My favorite quote is, “Peter’s kind of wholesome good-looks feel more like yesterday than today.”

A reader from Belchertown read *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien: I tried reading this book years ago, but was not into fantasy. The audio book was easier to enjoy, and I was able to finish it. Still not into fantasy!

A reader from Belchertown read *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman: Made into the Swedish movie "A Man Called Ove" and then into the American movie "A Man Called Otto", starring Tom Hanks. I haven't seen either movie yet but I absolutely love this book about an old curmudgeon with suicidal ideation who is reluctantly restored to an enjoyment of life by through engagement with his lively neighbors. A solid, feel-good keeper, this book lives permanently on my shelf now.

A reader from Agawam read *Coraline* by Neil Gaiman: I think I like the movie better!

A reader from Springfield read *apples never fall* by liane moriarty: I am participating in the #massbookreadingchallance. June’s challenge/book is a book turned into a television series. I have chosen
to listen via audio to Apples Never Fall which is now a series on Peacock. The family drama, the weird house guest and the plot twist of an ending. It was a good read!

A reader from Milton read Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens: Where the Crawdads Sing is a haunting story of abuse, abandonment, prejudice, the will to survive, and the strength of the human spirit. It is also a murder mystery, a love story, and includes beautiful descriptions of nature. Young Kya is left alone to survive in the marsh and uses her wit, intelligence, and the kindness of an older couple to survive.

A reader from Brockton read We Were the Lucky Ones by Georgia Hunter: Compelling story of a Jewish family surviving WWII.

A reader from Newton Highlands read Daisy Jones & the Six by Taylor Jenkins Reid: This is a rare instance where I preferred the miniseries over the book.

A reader from TEWKSBURY read The Flight Attendant by Chris Bohjalian: One of my favorite authors and I hadn't read this yet so it was an easy pick. I had seen some of the series, think (as usual) the book was better.

A reader from Plympton read We Were the Lucky Ones by Georgia Hunter: I read this before watching the Hulu series which was highly recommended to watch, and I am glad I did the reading first. Books always give a much deeper character background and story development. This saga, written by a descendant of a Jewish family from war-torn Nazi occupied Poland, vividly describes the anguish, the suffering and the hopes of each family member, separated during the German occupation, as they struggle to survive the horrors of the holocaust. As a reader you feel the emotions of each family member, and ache as well as are in awe of their courage and will to survive. A great read!

A reader from Wilmington read Good Omens by Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett: I've read works from both authors, so to read a book they collaborated on was a true delight. Completely absorbing, witty, and clever. It had me chuckling through a good majority of it and on the edge of my seat for the rest. Extremely well written, but that's almost to be expected by these two amazing authors. Looking forward to watching the TV show now to see how it compares!

A reader from Newton read The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins: I loved this book! It was very well paced and I kept turning pages until the very end. I just started the sequel, and it is proving to be just as good as the first book, which is a hard thing to do. The storyline is very dark, as it takes place in a dystopian future, but I still really enjoyed reading it. The main character, Katniss, was very well developed and I loved how the book was written in first-person from Katniss' perspective. I have not watched the movie, but I often find that books are much better than their filmed counterparts, and I prefer visualizing while I read rather than watching the movie. All in all, The Hunger Games was a great read.

A reader from Salem read Shutter Island by Dennis Lehane: I don't read thrillers often, but I usually have fun with them! I knew the twist of this book going in as well, but to be fair its kinda a last couple chapters reveal and I'm not sure how I feel about it? Other than that I have no strong feelings about it all said.

A reader from Mattapoisett read Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen: I had long resisted reading this book as bien too sentimental, but it finally called out to me at a good time.

A reader from North Reading read the Book Thief by markus zusak: This was incredibly sad but also incredibly clever told from the viewpoint of death. I’ve enjoyed historical fiction books that take place during the WWII time period.
A reader from Mashpee read *Accidental Billionaires* by Ben Mezrich: Even though all parties involved were not involved in the writing of this book, it was very interesting to hear about how some college kids created a platform/app that is known today worldwide.

A reader from North Attleboro read *The Bourne Sanction* by Robert Ludlum, Eric Van Lustbader: Initially there were so many characters, some with more than 1 name, that I was confused trying to keep track of them. But as the book moved along I enjoyed it. Bourne is duped by his mentor into heading to Europe to act for him. After reviewing the hidden info in his messages Bourne realizes he needs to stop this attack & figures out who can help him stop it in the nick of time. Very typical action movie type of story.

A reader from Reading read *The Idea of You* by Robinne Lee: This book was “steamy”! Made me wish I was 40 again.

A reader from Spencer read *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr: The nonlinear structuring of the plot, which can feel gimmicky in other stories, is employed exceptionally well by Doerr. That structure combined with the complex characters made for a very engrossing novel.

A reader from Boston read *Daisy Jones and the Six* by Taylor Jenkins Reid: I listened to this book as audiobook and it really enhanced the experience. The book was narrated by a multiperson cast and it worked really for the pseudo-biopic feel. The characters go through a variety of challenges with fame and their relationships. They're complicated people and I didn't necessarily like many of them, but overall I enjoyed the story more than expected.

A reader from Groton read *Tales from the Loop* by Simon Stalenhag: This is a unique book. It is mostly imaginative artwork with some short descriptions. It is now a series on Amazon and I'm curious how they adapted this to be a show.

A reader from Beverly read *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles: This was a very pleasant read set in an interesting time period and location.

A reader from Maynard read *Orange is the new black* by Piper Kerman: Kerman wanted an adventurous life until it caught up with her. Convicted of running drug money she was sentenced to 15 mos at
Danbury. As an inmate she writes about strip searches, drug tests, and learns who she can trust in prison and what happens while she’s there.

A reader from Randolph read The Help by kathryn stockett: A book that caught my attention from the first chapter and that I made time to read as often as possible each day. I'd love a sequel.

A reader from New Salem read Killers of the Flower Moon by David Grann: I had no idea how badly we treated the Native Americans and how corrupt the government use. Highly recommend this book.

A reader from Edgartown read The Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold: I thought book was okay. Found it to be confusing in who was speaking at times. May have to watch movie.

A reader from Blackstone read Killers of the Flower Moon by David Grann: Long but very good.

A reader from Chelsea read The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood: This book has become a phenomenon over the past few decades with a movie release and a more recently a highly successful TV series on Hulu. While the series is based on the book, it stands apart from the book quite a lot. Margaret Atwood even commented saying that she didn’t find the show to be as brutal as she had imagined it. The key to the Handmaid’s Tale is that it pulls on the history and the present to represent the struggle women have faced throughout time. Some people would make the argument that the book is advertised as a look into this horrific dystopian society that could never happen in real life, and arguments made are that women have experienced this; it's just impossible for some women who have lived in privilege to perceive it. I think that is the reason it was written though, not to portray a what if, but to show the realities and to call out the injustices towards women as if it were based in the United States.

A reader from Northfield read Queen Sugar by Natalie Baszile: When books veer off into the realm of film or TV, I feel a loyalty to the book and author. With Queen Sugar I had no idea it was based on a book until more than a handful of years beyond it's last season. When this challenge category was announced I resolved to find the book and I am glad I did. Far less involved and convoluted than the Ava DuVernay directed TV series, the novel is an engaging read and a bit of a mental gymnastics workout as characters from the book are somewhat shape shifted in the television show. I never tire of pithy multigenerational women characters living like bumper cars within the messiness of family and always feel that I glean some palatable strategy to employ moving forward in my own life. I also don't mind a bit when it's the brother on the low road slog and the sister striding along the high road as best she can. Particular body parts have scripted outcomes enough times so get over it!

A reader from Weymouth read Bridgerton: an offer from a gentleman by Julia Quinn: Fun read!

A reader from Springfield read Wool by Howey, Hugh: It wasn't bad, but I probably would've preferred just watching the adaptation and never reading the book (assuming the show is good -- I haven't watched it yet). The book is a bit too long-winded and had a few pacing issues that hopefully the show fixed.

A reader from Boston read A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman: Backman explores grief and community in this sweet book about a kind old man whose heart is too big.

A reader from New York read The Girl Who Played With Fire by Stieg Larsson: Sooo good! It somehow got better than the first. I'm very excited to read the third. I devoured it.

A reader from Nahant read Defending Jacob by William Landay: Really enjoyed the first half to 2/3 of the book. Thought it dragged a bit in the last third and the twisting was surprising, but believable, I thought.
A reader from Plainville read *We Were the Lucky Ones* by Georgia Hunter: Wow what a great book! This has been on my TBR for years and this prompt had me looking on my shelves. This is now a mini-series on Hulu. Though a little confusing at times, I couldn’t help being invested in each of the the characters.

A reader from Quincy read *Night of the Twisters* by Ivy Ruckman: I can see how this book may be harrowing for children.

A reader from Plainville read *Normal People* by Sally Rooney: This was a book about two kids who grow up in the same town but live vastly different lives. From there the book follows their journeys as they grow both together and apart. I am torn on how I feel about the book, it was decent at parts but severely lacking substance in others. I am intrigued by how it was translated for the screen though.

A reader from Salem read *Practical Magic* by Alice Hoffman: I’ve loved the movie for so many years and the book has been on my shelf, but I never read it. I knew it was going to be different, but imagine my surprise when I realized that most of the content of the film takes place in the last 1/4 of the book! I wish the aunts played a larger role in the story, but the focus on Kylie and Antonia actually makes the final book, “The Book of Magic” make much more sense!

A reader from Waltham read *The Sandman* by Neil Gaiman et al: I've been rereading the whole series but specifically just finished Season of Mists and... wow. This is where it really starts to pick up and feel like it is Saying Something. I can't wait to see how Netflix adapts it.

A reader from Wakefield read *Black Cake* by Charmaine Wilkerson: I really enjoyed this book.

A reader from Blandford read *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann: This book details the rampage of murders that occurred in the Osage Nation by persons who were appointed guardians of the natives in order to steal their money. These murder investigations were instrumental in the creation of the FBI. I knew some of this story prior to reading the book, but the extent of the horror was far greater than I expected. It is shameful that humans treat other humans like they are nothing. These are the parts of our history that need to be taught so we have a chance of preventing them from happening again. The FBI origin story is impressive. To read about a man of such honor in law enforcement is good for the soul. I need to see the movie or tv series now.

A reader from Colrain read *Good Omens* by Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett: I already knew at the beginning of the year what book I would read for June. For a book that became a movie or TV series it was a no brainer for me. I chose Good Omens. I fell in love with this crazy story last year. For those who don't know, it's about two unlikely friends, an angel and a demon who set about to find a missing Antichrist and prevent the End of the world. A wild and extremely fun journey.

A reader from Franklin read *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* by Ken Kesey: I really enjoy the movie of One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest but had never read the book. While I generally knew how it was going to end, it was interesting to see the story from the Chief's perspective, including glimpses into the hallucinations and paranoia that put him in the institution to begin with. It's just a really good story and I highly recommend both the book and movie!

A reader from Uxbridge read *Apples Never Fall* by Liane Moriarty: Many interesting plot twists, not the outcome expected, was nice how it unfolded.

A reader from Somerville read *The Miseducation of Cameron Post* by Emily M. Danforth: This has been on my TBR since high school but thankfully I appreciated it just as much now. Emily Danforth's writing
is so timeless and beautiful! Even though I'd seen the movie, it really only adapts the 2nd half of the book, so there was plenty that was new.

A reader from Brewster read *The Outsiders* by S.E Hinton: I was surprised to learn a girl wrote this book. Her youth showed a lot of wisdom and understanding of life's situation. It was a book directed towards young people but I thought it was very deep. I found it very interesting that the gentlest of the gang was the one who was the murderer. I kept hoping he would be able to make full use of his brain when the book wrapped up. But in the end he still had a loyalty to his gang and was just making sense of everything and that was fine. I loved it.

A reader from Beverly read *Seabiscuit: An American Legend* by Laura Hillenbrand: I recently watched the movie for a second time, so I enjoyed following up by reading the book. Laura does such a great job of telling the stories of Charles Howard, Red Pollard and Tom Smith, as well as Seabiscuit himself. I also enjoyed all the period details about the great depression and the culture of horseracing. Great book!

A reader from Yarmouth Port read *boys in the boat* by brown daniel james: recommended to me by book store in sandwich titcomb? It was surprisingly good about 1936 Olympics.

A reader from Brewster read *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe* by Fanny Flagg: I saw this movie and KNEW it had to be a book. I went out and bought it and it is now one of my favorites. I love the nonchalant way that emotions are shown in each character. The author is not a show off. There are such good examples of bonding, and a large pool of female personalities are honored.

A reader from Yarmouth Port read *clan of the cave. bear* by jean auel: i read all 6 books fabulous read.

A reader from Sandwich read *Find a Way* by Diana Nyad: Succeeding in swimming from Cuba to Key West, Diana Nyad tells in her memoir of her childhood and her persistence in overcoming setbacks and fears in achieving her dream. Her advice to all is "never give up." The film NYAD was based on her memoir.

A reader from North Billerica read *Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie: I liked the ending!

A reader from Peabody read *The further observations of Lady Whistledown* by Julia Quinn: Gossip in Bridgerton novels continues, now a Netflix series and in this anthology.

A reader from Indian Orchard read *Romancing Mister Bridgerton* by Julia Quinn: I read this series a few years ago and picked up it again this month for the release of the new season of the show. I found I did not enjoy it as much as much this time around I found one of the characters Colin’s behavior in some instances abusive and inappropriate. I also highly recommend the audio books for this series the narrator is wonderful!

A reader from Worcester read *Catherine, Called Birdy* by Karen Cushman: Funny and thoughtful and rich in historical detail. I’m pretty sure I read this when I was a kid, but I recalled very little about it. It certainly holds up. Birdy is a heroine very much of her time and place, but she’s also a teenage girl straining at the confines of her life in a way that is very familiar to a modern audience.

A reader from Wakefield read *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte: Absolutely amazing - this was a roller coaster read with so much nuance and emotion that I'm still gathering all my thoughts. I'm just so glad I finally read it.

A reader from Andover read *Queen Charlotte* by Quinn and Rhimes: Loved the book! Even better than the show.
A reader from Chelmsford read *Tiny Beautiful Things (10th Anniversary Edition): Advice from Dear Sugar* by Cheryl Strayed: This collection of help column letters and answers is well-written and thought-provoking. Together, the answers also reveal snippets giving a picture of the writer’s life experience. At some times, the Hulu show is “to the letter,” while at others, it is more “inspired by.” Overall, an enjoyable read and watch.

A reader from Bourne read *The Handmaid's Tale* by Atwood, Margaret: Not my favorite.

A reader from East Otis read *Big Little Lies* by Liane Moriarty: Everyone talked about how good this tv series was. I know books are always better than the movie/tv, so I was excited to finally read it. It hooked me and I finished it in 2 days.

A reader from Attleboro read *Kitchen Confidential* by Anthony Bourdain: I’m a big fan of Anthony Bourdain and bought Kitchen Confidential many years ago, but never read it. When going through my home library I saw this book and realized there was a tv series based on this book, though I think it was cancelled after 3 shows. I read the book for this great challenge and very happy I did. Good book and brought back many memories of such a talented person.


A reader from Hatfield read *Prince Caspian* by C. S. Lewis: I’m a bit of a Narnia freak and reread the 7 books every summer. I love this book. This is my 43rd time through the series and it amazes me that I notice different things each time through. Yet it also feels like spending a cozy evening with a good friend. I hated the movie. (They introduced a romance between Susan and Caspian that was never even implied in the book.

A reader from Dartmouth read *Firefly Lane* by Kristen Hannah: Loved this book although the subject was a bit difficult to read. Most people know what goes on in the world but at times, it hard to accept. This brings Neglect and abandonment to a new level. Interesting how one of the main characters, will never stop even when she has achieved success beyond normal desire. The ending although very sad, was a surprise. I will read the sequel and feel sorry that the series is on Netflix and may not be something I’ll choose to pay for.

A reader from Northampton read *MASH* by Richard Hooker: The book (1968), the movie (1970), the TV series (1972-1983) - I read/watched all of these many decades ago. The book is mostly a light "boys will be boys" read except for the descriptions of surgery. Those descriptions are an indictment of medical training and subtly showcase the horrors of war. That is the seed I think for the anti-war theme of the movie and the TV series.

A reader from Mashpee read *Sharp Object* by Gillian Flynn: The book I read this month was Sharp Object by Gillian Flynn. Sharp Objects was, or maybe still is, a mystery series on HBO. I have never seen this series, but I plan to watch at least one episode to compare the book and the series. This book is about a reporter named Camille, who covers a story about two young girls found murdered. The girls are from her hometown, which brings up traumatic events in her past that she must face while investigating the murders of these girls. This book was not a favorite of mine. Some parts dragged out, but I also felt I should have gone deeper to understand the character and their actions. I had the killer figured out before; I probably should have, but I thought the ending needed more. I would love to watch an episode of the series to see if there is a difference from the book.
A reader from Chicopee read *Wild* by Cheryl Strayed: Book that inspired the film by the same name. A woman who goes through a lot of personal trauma decides to hike the Pacific Coast Trail by herself to try to reconnect with herself.

A reader from MASHPEE read *The Zookeepers Wife* by Diane Ackerman: This is a true story of the vital role that Polish zookeepers played in saving the lives of hundreds of people during the Holocaust. Ackerman weaves her story of the zookeepers, Jan and Antonia Zabinski, hid those fleeing from the Nazis in closets and zoo cages.

A reader from Dudley read *Apples Never Fall* by Liane Moriarty: This book was made into a television series which I have not watched, or heard of before reading. It has many twists and turns like life does, and describes a family with all of the love, suspicions, drama, and success that goes with it. I enjoyed reading about the Delaney family's triumphs and downfalls. Moriarty's plot seems a bit exaggerated, maybe would be more believable in the made for TV adaptation. But the book made me laugh out loud several times with her allusions to Harry Potter!

A reader from Chelmsford read *Carmilla* by Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu: I've always been a big fan of Bram Stoker's "Dracula", so I was excited to learn about this vampire novel by another Irish author that predates Dracula by nearly 25 years. Carmilla is a fast-paced read, told entirely from the perspective of a young woman named Laura, about her mysterious houseguest, Carmilla, who is hiding a deadly secret. This book establishes many of the vampire traits and tropes that we find in Dracula and persisting in vampire media today. The version I read was edited by Carmen Maria Machado, who annotates the book with geography facts and queer-lens commentary. I found this novel chilling and engrossing. I would recommend it to horror fans, who are looking for tension / suspense and not gore. This book has very minimal blood, and most violence is actually off-page and never witnessed by the narrator Laura.

A reader from Boston read *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng: I have been meaning to read this book for ages. A complicated story about familial relationships that was really well written and really makes you think.

A reader from Paxton read *Arthur: the Dog Who Crossed a Jungle to Find a Home* by Mikael Lindlorn: I had watched Arthur the King and loved how it lined up with this month’s challenge!

A reader from Rochester read *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr: This is a poignant account of children surviving in World War II. The story revolves around a blind French girl and a German boy as they grow up during the war. Their lives intersect as each finds a way to survive the horrors of the conflict.

A reader from Sutton read *Dune* by Frank Herbert: The first 50 pages were a struggle to get through and very confusing, but I'm glad I stuck with it. I enjoyed all of the tense conversations and political scheming.

A reader from Middleboro read *The Hating Game* by Sally Thorne: This was a cute romcom with a little spice and a lot of heart.

A reader from Sandwich read *atonement* by Ian McEwan: What a wonderful psychological journey!!! So well done!!

A reader from Brookline read *The Price of Salt* by Patricia Highsmith: I watched the film inspired by this book about 6 years ago and enjoyed it, so I selected this book for this month. True to the adage, the book
exceeded the film on quality. I enjoyed the view into the interior lives of the characters that was not translated onto the screen. I would still recommend both versions, but with a preference for the book.

A reader from Webster read *The Summer I Turned Pretty* by Jenny Han: I also read the other 2 books in this trilogy, "It's Not Summer Without You" and "We'll Always Have Summer". My co-worker has been encouraging me to read this series as it is currently a show series on Prime (and I won't ever watch a show or movie without reading the book first)! Admittedly, the first book didn't draw me in as much as I was expecting it to. I struggled to connect with the characters right away in the first book. The second book definitely drew me in more and I became invested to try to predict which brother the main character (Belly) would ultimately end up with (or neither, which didn't seem likely). Although I struggled to connect with most of the main characters, I appreciated the way they were written. Jenny Han does not tend to "fluff" her characters to make them 100% likeable; she presents them in a way that makes them very "real" and relatable. The 3 teenage main characters (Belly, Conrad, and Jeremiah) are often rough around the edges - at times petulant, immature, and definitely angry. This is particularly true for Belly before she even knows about Susannah's illness, which made me cringe at times. Overall I give the series 3.5 stars out of 5. I already started watching the show series to see how it compares and I think they're doing a great job with it! Overall it's a pretty decent summer read.

A reader from Roslindale read *Girl With a Pearl Earring* by Tracy Chevalier: An easy, early summer read and I’m looking forward to watching the movie to see how the book differs.

A reader from Worcester read *Red White and Royal Blue* by Casey McQuinston: I haven’t read this book since the movie came out last year so it was nice to put them side by side. They’re both fun and hold a place in my heart, but the movie like most movies based on books had to streamline the story to make it fit in 2 hours. That meant losing characters and plot points that gave the book depth.

A reader from Grafton read *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood: June's theme gave me the perfect excuse to read this book. I kept putting it off because it is not exactly the genre I typically read, but I am glad I finally did. It's crazy to think that this was written in the 80s and is still very relevant.

A reader from Weymouth read *Aesop's Fables* by Aesop: There were a lot of good reminders in Aesop's Fables.

A reader from South Weymouth read *Atonement* by Ian mcEwan: Not my cup of tea.

A reader from South Hadley read *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles: This book is filled with interesting and (mostly)lovable characters who within the confines of the Hotel Metropol live a full, exciting and 'purposeful' life. I loved the Count and all his friends and family. And I was sweetly surprised by the ending. Excellent book!

A reader from Norton read *The Other Black Girl* by Zakiya Dalila Harris: I liked the inside look of the publishing industry.

A reader from Stoneham read *Enola Holmes and the Mark of the Mongoose* by Springer, Nancy: Good continuation of the series. I like the Netflix movies.

A reader from Malden read *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI* by David Grann: I did not like this book. It was entirely too in the weeds.

A reader from Dracut read *The Fault in our Stars* by John Green: I always enjoy John Green’s books. He gives insight on what it’s like to have cancer from the patient’s point of view in this book. Well worth reading.
A reader from Worcester read *Answered Prayers* by Truman Capote: An extremely well-written romp through the not-so-flattering world of high-society New York/Europe in the mid-century. I felt like I was a fly on the wall in La Cote Basque throughout the entire book. Capote's writing is delicious - it truly sings.

A reader from Wakefield read *We Have Always Lived In The Castle* by Shirley Jackson: This book was so odd but I really liked it. Merricat was such an intriguing narrator and I'm pretty convinced she's a psychopath. I actually loved the ending of the novel and I was disappointed that the movie changed it so much to make it more violent. The book ending with the sisters laughing as their cousin drives away was perfect to me.

A reader from Andover read *Crazy Rich Asians* by Kevin Kwan: This book is a kind of soap opera (but a well written one) about an ultrarich young Chinese (from Singapore) man, who is bringing his American born Chinese girlfriend, to the BIGGEST wedding of the year in Singapore. Also the plan is to introduce her, Rachel, to his, Nicholas, extended family. They have been dating for 2 years, both professors at NYU. Rachel teaches Economics, and Nicholas, History. Rachel also plans to visit her best friend from college, who is also a Singapore citizen (and wealthy). Nicky's family unfortunately are back stabbing insecure wealthy gossips. Few work, but live off their family money. They attack Rachel for her background (she was raised by a single mom), modest circumstances (she supports herself). They take meanness to the highest level, by pranks, and insulting remarks to her face. I would rename the book Annoying, outrageous billionaire Chinese (to watch out for or avoid...). Their meanness will stun you!! Their low down pranks, and snobbishness. Them feeling they can't live on under one million a year. They are constantly making rude comments, one upping each other. Rachel is their opposite: hard working, sweet, friendly, accomplished and suave. Nicholas falls into this category, also. If anything he has been raised to be unaware of his family's wealth and status, going to college in UK, then immigrating to the US for graduate school and a job, which is where he meets Rachel. A co-worker professor matches them up, and they hit it off big time. So Singapore and his relatives are all shocking to Rachel, to say the least. But the worst is that Nicholas's mom plans to break them up. In Singapore they attend multiple social events. The details of the wedding prove these Asians are totally unpractical and pretentious. The wedding costs more than 14 million, there are 888 guests attending, there is a 14 course dinner with a 12 tier wedding cake (ye gads!!) Being surrounded by entitled, spoiled, delusional, insecure braggarts, Rachel's character is a sharp, but honest contrast to them, none of the Singaporeans can hold a light to her. And unfortunately I read that this story is not really fiction, but based on the author's life!! The ending is not entirely completed, and it hints at a sequel. But since it was written in 2013, and the movie came out in 2018, and nothing has surfaced since, the book's end may be a done deal. But I am looking forward to seeing the movie....

A reader from Ipswich read *White Noise* by Don Delillo: Enjoyed the book - the dialogue hums - but couldn't finish the movie. The casting decisions didn't work for me at all.

A reader from Quincy read *Romantic Comedy* by Sittenfeld, Curtis: A writer for a sketch-comedy show (similar to SNL) falls for a singer after he is a host and musical guest on the show. It is being adapted into a movie this year by New Line Cinema.

A reader from Amherst read *Dune* by Frank Herbert: Fascinating creation of an entire world. I enjoyed it more than I expected. Deep examination of the morality of human's responsibility to their environment.

A reader from Springfield read *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann: Killers of the Flower Moon by David Grann is the true tale of the lengths people will go through to get rich. It tells the story of Mollie Burkhart, a member of the Osage tribe whose family members die one-by-one in a plot to acquire the inheritances to oil-filled land. It continues through the lens of Tom White, a special agent of the newly
A reader from Attleboro read *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak: A very well written story of the human side of Nazi Germany during WWII. Death is the unique narrator of the story and tells the story with more compassion than one might think. Liesel, the main character, is a young girl being raised by foster parents near Munich. Although it is a depressing topic, the story is compelling enough and flows well to want to keep reading to find out what happens to all of the people in her life. I would highly recommend this book.

A reader from Berkley read *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens: I liked the book better than the movie but honestly I was underwhelmed by both.

A reader from Easton read *Breakfast at Tiffany’s* by Truman Capote: This is one of the few times I can say I actually enjoyed the movie more than the book. Perhaps it’s because I saw the movie first and the 2 main characters are etched in my mind and did not match up with their descriptions in the book. Still a good read.

A reader from South Hadley read *Girl, Interrupted* by Susanna Kaysen: As a mental health therapist, it was jarring to read this story and have worked with folks who have had similar experiences in programs like this, 57 years later.

A reader from North Dighton read *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus: I was excited to read this book as both a woman who loves science and cooking, but I was disappointed. It lacked subtlety, and the messaging was very much pushed in your face. I consider myself feminist and have similar religious beliefs to the protagonist, but the manner of which they were conveyed was hard to find likable at times.

A reader from East Longmeadow read *The Invisible Man* by H. G. Wells: The Father of Science Fiction, H. G. Wells wrote several iconic novels at the turn of the last century that have become the cornerstone of modern science fiction. All have inspired films, and the one I chose to read was *The Invisible Man* (1897). In this book Wells describes how a man unsatisfied with the society he lives in attempts to become famous/rich/powerful by developing a method to render himself invisible. He succeeds, but immediately realizes the disadvantages of his transformation. He is perceived as a threat, and is hunted down and ultimately pays the price for tampering with nature. The film version with Claude Rains in the title role varies considerably from the novel, but the premise of going mad from the experience remains and contributes to the drama. Check it out!

A reader from Andover read *All The Light We Can Not See* by Anthony Doerr: This was a book that I heard about from Nexflex I am glad I read the book first. I could not put it down wanting to know what happens to Marie-Laure her father and the rest of the people who helped along the way. It made me very sad at times but enjoyed hearing from the German and French side of the war. I was surprised by the outcome and will pass the book on to someone else.

A reader from Attleboro read *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus: What a great book to kick off summer! I loved the main character Elizabeth Zott and her desire to make change for women. Whenever I read a book like this I am reminded of the struggles women had to overcome so that I can voice my opinion or have the job I do. The stigma in the 1960s attached to a woman in the work force or an unwed mother. Supper at Six was wonderful and I loved how it described all cooking as chemistry of ingredients.
and making a masterpiece. I especially loved her daily ending having children setting the table to give their mom a moment. Looking forward to watching the television adaptation.

A reader from Rockland read *The Golden Compass* by Philip Pullman: This is the 3rd time I've read this book. I've seen the movie, but not the HBO series. It's a favorite book and I'm moving on to the sequel now.

A reader from Chicopee read *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck: The Joad's travel West from the Midwest during the Great Depression. Facing many challenges, the family struggles to survive. Only by showing sheer grit and hope can the family continue to stay alive and work towards their dreams.

A reader from Salem read *Practical Magic* by Alice Hoffman: I had never read this work by Alice Hoffman but had watched the movie several times. Glad I did take the opportunity as there is much more to the book. Always great to read works by local authors and involving your town's history (Salem)!

A reader from Cambridge read *The White Princess* by Philippa Gregory: "The White Princess" tells the story of Elizabeth of York who married Henry VII after he defeated Richard III and became King of England. Elizabeth of York's story is interesting enough on its own. She spent part of her childhood in sanctuary while her father, King Edward, was in exile, then was raised as a princess when her dad came back into power. Her family fell again when her father died and her uncle, Richard III, took the throne and maybe killed her brothers in order to do so. There's so much there. But the author just had to write in some weird plot lines here involving sexual violence that felt wholly unnecessary. I didn't like it in the Starz series and surprise! I didn't like it in this book either.

A reader from Sharon read *Starship Troopers* by Robert Heinlein: I had seen the movie many years ago and it was interesting to read the book that inspired it, though they are very different.

A reader from Newton read *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr: I devoured this book, and then watched the Netflix series inspired by the book. Although I was disappointed in the changes they made for the screen, I thought it was a really well made series.

A reader from Northampton read *The Stepford Wives* by Ira Levin: Short novel, but was very thrilling!

A reader from Monson read *A Civil Action* by Jonathan Harr: This was a very interesting read. The descriptive language and intriguing storyline motivated me to keep reading. I watched the movie of the same title years ago. It was very well done. However, the book was even better.

A reader from Scituate read *Lassie Comes Home* by Eric Knight: Great Movie with Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor.

A reader from Shrewsbury read *The Lincoln Lawyer* by Michael Connelly: Good way to understand a little more about the legal world at a pace that I could follow. And even though I now know the outcome of the story, I am ready to watch the movie and maybe start with the TV series.

A reader from Stoneham read *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles: I really enjoyed this book. This was a time period I knew little about but I learned a lot from the story. These characters really stuck with me and made me care about what happened to them.

A reader from Northampton read *A Man be Called Ove* by Frederik Backman: This is a correction. The book is for June not May.
A reader from NAHANT read *Defending Jacob* by William Landay: This is such a good book. It took me a long time to get to. But, I actually read it for my June Mystery Book Club. And now I'm watching the tv series. It's good for those who like a good story with big twists.

A reader from Attleboro read *The One* by John Marrs: This was an interesting book, and I can see where it would make a good TV show or movie. This one happens to be on Netflix. The tagline is correct: "A simple DNA test is all it takes. And soon you'll be matched with your perfect partner, but even soulmates have secrets..." The five main characters seemed pigeon-holed into their roles and their thoughts, but each time the story went to another character, something new happened. I was worried that with 105 chapters, and bouncing from one character to another each chapter, it would get repetitive and boring. It did not. There was always some new twist or something that happened to keep the story going forward. This was one of those books that I was tempted to read "just one more chapter" before putting it down for a break. The chapters were short, and there was something else coming around the corner all the time. Good book - I would recommend it.

A reader from Weymouth read *The Monuments Men* by Robert M. Edsel: This novel reveals the true story of the Special Allied Forces that saved many art treasures in Europe as Adolf Hitler was attempting to take over countries in Europe. A group of American and British museum directors, curators, art historians, and others, called the Monument Men risked their lives to salvage these treasures before they could be stolen or destroyed.

A reader from Haverhill read *Twelve Years a Slave* by Solomon Northup: It goes without saying that the autobiography of a man who was kidnapped and sold into slavery is harrowing. Nonetheless, this is an aspect of American history that all of us must reckon with.

A reader from Bolton read *good morning midnight* by lily brooks-dalton: Good book, not great movie.

A reader from Feeding Hills read *Atonement* by Ian Mcewan: Once again thanks to the Challenge I chose a book I would not otherwise have been introduced to. Atonement was an enjoyable read for a book with such heavy subject matter as family estrangement, war, decay of human beings with old age. It was somewhat jarring to go from Part 1 of the book where the characters were young and naive (though ill fated) to the battlefield of war with all its atrocities. I am not a fervent student of history but after reading the book I had a yen to learn more about World War II and especially what happened on the beaches of Normandy. Really, as I approach retirement age, this reading challenge has been teaching me more and more about things I never took the time to understand. AND, of course after reading the book I naturally wanted to watch the movie that emerged and I enjoyed it too!

A reader from Wilmington read *The Adventures of Captain Underpants: First Epic Novel* by Dav Pilkey: There were a lot of silly parts in the book, like when George and Harold made their principal act like a chicken. I think people will enjoy it as much as I did.

A reader from Wilmington read *Lego Star Wars: Save the Galaxy!* by Ace Landers: I really like that there are light sabers in this book. There is fighting. It is kind of funny.

A reader from Providence read *Rumpole And The Primrose Path* by John Mortimer: A collection of 6 short stories about the London barrister, Horace Rumpole. I enjoyed the series on tv, and the book was equally enjoyable!

A reader from Ercing read *The Bridges of Madison County* by Robert James Waller: I read this book long ago, then saw the movie. It was fun revisiting the novel; I had forgotten so many details! As I re-read it, I
could only picture Francesca looking like Meryl Streep. There are some lovely philosophical moments in
the book; I had forgotten that, too!

A reader from Beverly read *The Three-Body Problem* by Cixin Liu: This was an interesting bit of scifi. It
sort of goes above my head, but there are a lot of interesting concepts in the book.

A reader read *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles: I had watched the series before reading and was
told there was more to the book. It did not scratch the surface of the story. We follow the life in of a
Russian count during his time in exile after the revolution through WWII. An intriguing portrayal of how
people adapted and created an oasis for themselves in a time of repression. Vivid storytelling, historically
interesting, and deep character development.

A reader from Belchertown read *Turtles All the Way Down* by John Green: Glad I read it. Gave me better
understanding of people with OCD.

A reader from Woods Hole read *The Maze Runner* by James Dashner: This dystopian novel is set on an
earth ravaged by solar flares where a disease similar to rabies is spreading fast. A group of children are
wiped clean of their memory and put into a deadly maze. They later figure out that it was all a test to find
perfect candidates for a sinister purpose.

A reader from Ipswich read *The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman: Currently in production with
an amazing cast! Including Helen Mirin and Pierce Brosnan.

A reader from Hudson read *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett: The book and the movie were in parallel with
each other. I enjoyed both the book and the film since each evoked the same emotional response from me.

A reader from Arlington read *Good Omens* by Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman: I thoroughly enjoyed
reading this book again, and watching the TV adaptation. It's more than just a comedy. The novel also
explores the relationship of good to evil and suggests that the two need each other to maintain equilibrium
and protect humanity.

A reader from Yarmouth Port read *I, Claudius* by Robert Graves: I read this book then watched the series
on Prime. Well done thoroughly enjoyed. The book of course has so much more.

A reader from Braintree read *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus: Already watched the movie but
the book got more in depth in terms of character development. About a woman chemist turned cooking
show host due to gender discrimination in the science world at the time (50's).

A reader from Pembroke read *The Three Body Problem* by Cixin Liu: Very intriguing and thought
provoking. I like Science Fixtiln and appreciated the cultural perspective. I wanted to read at least the first
book before starting the series.

A reader from Wakefield read *Good Omens* by Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett: Fantasy book that
inspired a tv show of the same name. I loved its humor - it didn't take itself too seriously.

A reader from Hopkinton read *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee: The first part was rather boring, I am
a bit too old to be fascinated by the experience of a girl growing up. The second part was better, but still, I
don't understand widespread admiration either for the book itself, its literary qualities, or the character of
Atticus Finch. I read it to catch up on 'American Classics', otherwise I probably would have dropped it
after the first few chapters.
A reader from North Dighton read *Ghost World* by Daniel Clowes: Taking inspiration from last month’s challenge, I read another comic! Love both versions of this story. The comic is less narrative and made up of a series of vignettes that are woven together into a more linear plot for the film.

A reader from Erving read *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien: I was all over with this book lol amazing details and parts in this book that had me feeling like I was there or I could picture the movie perfectly! Adventure, loyalty, betrayal, friendship, fear, bravery, obstacles that now a days nobody would choose to take lol this book had it all! Then there were parts where the sentences dragged on about the unnecessary or started to sound like the author was talking to a childâ€¦but that’s the good in the book as wellâ€¦catch every type of reader you can. Loved it!!

A reader from Milford read *A Room with a View* by E.M. Forster: "Life is easy to chronicle, but bewildering to practice." when a place and a time and moment call to you, coax you to be who you are or to find out, in the confusion and possibility of youth that jumbles and expands what that means...how do you answer?

A reader from Gardner read *The 100* by Kass Morgan: For June, I read The 100 by Kass Morgan. I liked this book a lot and elements of it reminded me of The Giver but in space. My biggest qualm was that it felt unfinished and there were a lot of cliffhangers. The series does continue but I still felt like it could've been wrapped up neater. I will 100% (get it?) be watching the series which apparently has 7 seasons.

A reader from Oxford read *Normal People* by Sally Rooney: I so enjoyed seeing how these characters grew through the course of the book, and also how they stayed themselves to the end. One of my favorite reads this year.

A reader from Waltham read *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett: A very simplified version of history.

A reader from Quincy read *Fellow Travelers* by Thomas Mallon: I usually try to read a book before watching a tv show but did the opposite this time. While the book was good the show was so much more in depth and covered a longer period of time. I think the longer time period allowed you to understand both characters more and made it less black and white. From the book’s perspective one is a just a selfish bad guy and the other one is just blinded by love. However, the book is definitely a worthwhile read.

A reader from Sandwich read *The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein: My librarian chose this book for me. She promised I wouldn't be devastated by it. She was wrong! I cried - a lot. But I also laughed a lot too. What a sweet, poignant book. I loved Enzo the Dog.

A reader from Quincy read *The Ghost Bride* by Yangsze, Choo: Don't know how they made this into a Netflix series - I was going to put the book down because I don't like fantasy, but I had to finish it! It's a good mix of fantasy/Chinese folklore that will keep you reading through the night.

A reader from Boston read *One Day* by David Nicholls: One Day is a story that follows 2 people over the course of about 30 years. Each chapter was an installment of the same day each year and you got to see how the characters grew together and drifted apart. How they evolved through different phases of their lives. This show came out on Netflix earlier this year and I haven’t watched it yet, but now I’m really interested to see how it turns out as a series. The book was also set in some locations I recently visited so I liked that I could picture where they we’re throughout the book.

A reader from Parkland read *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann: This was a shocking, yet true account of the murders of what was likely HUNDREDS of members of the Osage people of Oklahoma.
and Kansas by trusted members of authority and sometimes even family members in order to obtain the ‘headrights’ to their oil-rich lands.

A reader from Woburn read Little Town On The Prairie by Laura Ingalls Wilder: The parts of this book that I enjoyed were firmly overshadowed by the sections that showcased the characters' intense racism.

A reader from South Hadley read Station Eleven by Emily St John Mandel: Post apocalyptic novels are not my usual genre. Mandel is a great storyteller planting clues and interweaving story lines and characters. I found this book to be both thought provoking and hopeful that doomsday can be survived.

A reader from Parkland read Killers of the Flower Moon by David Grann: This was a shocking, yet true account of the murders of what was likely HUNDREDS of members of the Osage people of Oklahoma and Kansas by trusted members of authority and sometimes even family members in order to obtain the ‘headrights’ to their oil-rich lands.

A reader from Southborough read Magpie Murders by Anthony Horowitz: wonderfully clever. A fun read. as well as the next one, Moonflower Murders.

A reader from Bedford read Dark Places by Gillian Flynn: The book was so dark that I couldn't bring myself to actually watch a movie version on it!

A reader from Weymouth read Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen: Pride and Prejudice has inspired several mini series and movies and is my favorite Jane Austen novel.

A reader from Fairhaven read History of the World in 6 Glasses by Standage, Tom: I did this challenge in reverse. I read and enjoyed this book many years ago when it first came out. So interesting the way the world has been shaped by something as simple as beverages! So, instead of reading, I watched the TV series made from the book. Such fun with Dan Ackroyd as the "bartender" host. Each chapter was one episode, about an hour long, and great fun! If you liked the book, certainly go find the show. It's streaming on Roku!

A reader from Hanson read The Dry by Jane Harper: This was an enthralling murder mystery that takes place in a small Australian town. The protagonist is a man who was unjustly run out of town as a teen, then asked to come back to investigate when his friend is murdered. Your past won't stay buried until you deal with it.

A reader from Springfield read Interview with a Vampire by Anne Rice: Have seen the show before the book I will say it made me love the show even more. Enjoyed the complicated messy relationships and vampire drama even more!

A reader from Gill read Where The Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens: Excellent!! The movie was good also but the book is better.

A reader from Beverly read Cocaine Blues A Phryne Fisher Mystery by Kerry Greenwood: Love the PBS show. Meeting Phryne, Dot, Bert, Cec, and Detective Jack Robinson on the pages was a treat because the characters were more fleshed out in the book than on the TV show and I learned some of the back story. I plan to read the rest of the books in the series.

A reader from Hopedale read My Life with the Walter Boys by Ali Novak: Nice YA book - interested to see what the Netflix show is like. Ins and outs of crushes and young love while in school! Wondering if there will be a second book!
A reader from Brookline read *Empire Falls* by Richard Russo: Wonderful! The story of a middle aged man in a dead end job in a dying town who tries to do the decent thing every day in difficult circumstances. And whose defining characteristic is his fierce love for his teenage daughter. This sounds tragic But there is actually a lot of sly humor in the book.

A reader from SOUTH YARMOUTH read *The Expatriots* by Janice Y.K. Lee: Very interesting perspectives from three women expats in Hong Kong. The story weaves them together while letting the reader in on the inner thoughts of each character.

A reader from Charlton read *The Princess Bride* by William Goldman: Love this book! It is my favorite movie and I had never read the book. So much is incorporated into the movie and the storytelling is fantastic and asides add to the humor of the book.

A reader from Sandwich read *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr: Loved the book, have not had the opportunity to view the mini-series.

A reader from Ipswich read *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen: What can I say?! Wonderful every time I read it. I love her sense of humor.

A reader from Baldwinville read *Emma* by Jane Austen: It was interesting reading a story that has been adapted so many times. I kept thinking about the straightforward adaptations and the less straightforward adaptations (the wonderful Clueless) as I read it. I was surprised how un-likable I found the protagonist, partly because of her actions and partly because of the ways in which she embodies the strictures of class that Austen explores. I was also struck many times by how true Austen’s insights about human behavior were.

A reader from Topsfield read *Anna Karenina* by Leo Tolstoy: This is my first "book club" book. It was sitting on my bookshelf for a while, because I was intimidated by its size. But once I jumped in, encouraged by my friends reading it in a book club, I was hooked!

A reader from Attleboro read *MASH: A novel about Three Army Doctors* by Richard Hooker: I loved reading this book. I saw the movie and series over the years. The book is a little different, but I loved it. I loved seeing who Radar and Hawkeye were as originally written in contrast to who they were in the series. It was enlightening.

A reader from Worcester County read *Erasure* by Percival Everett: This novel was the basis of the 2023 Academy Award winning film "American Fiction." (Best adapted screenplay.) When a literary novelist is told he's "not black enough," he takes his agent's advice and writes a ridiculous novel stereotyping ghetto thugs whose dialog is so ungrammatical it's barely readable. His new novel is a bestseller, it brings a lucrative film contract, then it's shortlisted for a prestigious award. Honestly, the movie was funnier, and its (invented) ending was priceless. For me, a rare case of liking the movie better than the book.

A reader from Florence read *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann: This true story of the murders of members of the Osage tribe in Oklahoma in the 1920s is heartbreaking and infuriating. Grann tells of a justice and legal system that was completely corrupt, enabling (and, in some instances, conspiring with) white con men & women to deprive the Osage of their property and money. The story of the birth of the FBI interconnects with the Osage saga when J. Edgar Hoover sends an honorable former Texas Ranger named Tom White to form a team to investigate. However, while the feds were able to put away a few of the murderers and conspirators, it turns out that there were hundreds more victims than were ever investigated; the majority of the murders remain unsolved and those who committed them lived out their
lives unpunished. The book is intensely researched and extremely well-written. One of the best non-fiction books I've ever read, I highly recommend it.

A reader from West Boylston read *The Orchid Thief* by Susan Orleans: So much rambling about flowers and swamps that I lost track of the actual plot. Not sure why you would make a movie out of this.

A reader from Gloucester read *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker: I read this for my book club. I had been meaning to read this for a long time and I am so glad I did. I plan to watch both movies too now that I have finished it.

A reader from Sharon read *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann: A well-written and informative account of the Osage murders of the early 20th century.

A reader from Turners Falls read *Crazy Rich Asians* by Kevin Kwan: Easy 4-star book. I had such a hard time putting this down and can’t wait to read the next two books in the series!

A reader from Wakefield read *Erasure* by Percival Everett: A satire of both low and high brow literature, a reflection on art, and an expression of frustration at society's insistence that we all fit in neat boxes. I am interested to see how this was adapted as a movie.

A reader from Dracut read *all the light we cannot see* by Anthony Doerr: This might be the best book I ever read.

A reader from Amherst read *Carrie* by Stephen King: Very interesting. Not usually my genre, but I have heard many references to this book and thought I would give it a try. There’s a lot of religious abuse against a child that was difficult to read, but I can definitely see why people are fans of Stephen King.

A reader from Rochester read *Memoirs of a Geisha* by Arthur Golden: Fascinating details of the life of a geisha. It is hard to believe that women lived like this in the 20th century, even if it was in a different culture.

A reader from Franklin read *Red Sparrow* by Jason Matthews: DNF - A good book for those that enjoy espionage, but it just wasn't for me. I read about 35% of the book but won't continue. Too many other books to read.

A reader from Saugus read *Lessons In Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus: Overall, I liked this book with a few issues. For a book that is described as "laugh out loud funny", I didn't laugh once. The subject matter was mostly serious with some dark points. There was also an overarching "all men are bad" feeling. But I did like the interactions between Elizabeth, her daughter Mad and the dog Six-Thirty. I liked her independent spirit and not taking any nonsense from anyone and how she made the TV show her own. The ending felt wrapped up a little too quickly.

A reader from WAKEFIELD read *First Frost* by Craig Johnson: I've read all the Longmire books and have seen the Netflix series. This is the latest installment. It tells two stories about Walt and Henry and has a compelling social component. Always enjoyable reading.

A reader from Hull read *No Country for Old Men* by Cormac McCarthy: Picked up this book after becoming a fan of McCarthy’s magnificent border trilogy. The region McCarthy writes about is one I am personally familiar with, but his stories, of course, are not. Scenes “towns and country” described in this book were easy to visualize. The determination, persistence, and personal moral conflicts the characters face, too. Violence in the book is not a way of life but its own character in the book. It’s always peeking
around the corner. This was another excellent McCarthy book and I look forward to finally seeing the award winning film to compare.

A reader from WAKEFIELD read *First Frost* by Craig Johnson: I've read all of the Longmire books and have seen the Netflix series. This is the latest installment and Johnson takes a different approach in telling the Walt-Henry story. There's interesting history and social commentary. His books are always enjoyable.

A reader from Attleboro read *The Lovely Bones* by Alice Sebold: The book was just okay for me. I didn't like the details about the murderer. It was a very thought provoking book. I did find it hard to put down once I got to around the halfway point.

A reader from Beverly read *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders* by David Grann: Excellent book about the FBI.

A reader from Florence read *The Boys in The Boat* by Daniel James Brown: True story of the Row Team at the University of Washington, told mostly from Joe Rantz's life story, and their journey Olympic Gold in 1936. I loved this book, the stories of "the Boys" who were chosen for the row team and the historic times they lived in (The Great Depression, The Dust Bowl, The Grand Coulee Dam project, and Hitler's rise to power). The challenges they had to overcome to become a part of the team and make enough money to stay at the University, the training required to learn to row and excel at it. The story of the coach, Al Ulbrickson, who dreamed of Olympic gold and George Pocock, the British Boat Builder, both of whom helped the boys develop the physical, mental and emotional strength to work as team—To Win!

A reader from North Chelmsford read *The Lathe of Heaven* by Ursula K Le Guin: This sci-fi classic was twice adapted as a TV movie: once by PBS in 1980, and once by A&E Network in 2002.

A reader from Melbourne read *What You Did* by Claire McGowan: Written by an Irish author, this book describes a party for college friends who have not spent time all together since they graduated 25 years ago. Although the author is foreign, the story could have been set in the U.S. The emotional impact of the awful situation that was set in motion during the gathering would not vary much between our two cultures.


A reader from Plainville read *Daisy Jones and the Six* by Taylor Jenkins Reid: Excellent book! Read it in only 3 days.

A reader from Erving read *White Oleander* by Janet Fitch: Hard book to read as quite disturbing but compelling enough to finish.

A reader from Reading read *Magpie Murders* by Anthony Horowitz: I really liked the series, which went back and forth between the storylines. The book was structured differently (mostly one storyline, then mostly the other) and there were a few little differences in plot but I enjoyed it as well. Really clever design and a nod to to classic whodunits.

A reader from Stoneham read *Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie: Rereading a book I first read more than 50 years ago.

A reader read *Orange is the New Black* by Piper Chapman: This book was recommended by a friend as I never watched the series. I really liked the story telling and the vulnerability by the author as she
described her time behind bars and the great ladies she met. At times I was angry at the treatment and insanity of the rules in place which I think is kind of the point of the book;). I now want to watch the series.

A reader from Salem read *The Other Black Girl* by Zakiya Dalila Harris: Did not see the twist coming!

A reader from Haverhill read *Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn: Read this because I hadn’t actually seen the movie. Finished it today and watched the movie with my boyfriend after. The movie was alright, but I’m so glad I read the book first!

A reader from Weymouth read *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* by J.K Rowling: It’s been a bit since I’ve read this book but it was nice to return to Hogwarts. This is my least favorite book of the series but I still enjoyed reading it and picking up on details that I hadn’t noticed before.

A reader from Somerville read *Cleat Cute* by Meryl Wilsner: This book was so cute and such a fun book to pick up with the Olympics this summer!

A reader from Quincy read *The Wolf of Wall Street* by Jordan Belfort: This book was fascinating- I could barely put it down! But it was like watching a train wreck. I hated almost every person involved in the story; I was shocked at the lack of morals and the selfishness. I plan to watch the movie now- so see if they are as intriguing and unlikeable on the big screen too. It was not the greatest writing, but it kept my attention. 5 stars

A reader from Newport read *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr: I wasn’t sure I was going to be able to get into this book, but I was pleasantly surprised by how invested in the different perspectives I became.

A reader from Reading read *Slow Horses* by Mick Herron: I saw the TV series before reading this book, and highly recommend that people do both- watch the series and read the book. They really complement each other amazingly well.

A reader from Seekonk read *Apples Never Fall* by Liane Moriarty: I had watched the mini-series prior to reading the book (I usually read a book first, then watch the series/movie). Both were interesting but somewhat different, such as the book took place in Australia, the series in Florida. But the endings were very different so it was like two separate stories. Both were interesting and I would recommend both.

A reader from Cambridge read *A Monster Calls* by Patrick Ness: A heart wrenching book about dealing with the loss of a parent and sexually focusing on the anger and the guilt that comes with it. Very good illustrations and I liked the whole story within a story plot device.

A reader from Spencer read *The Ritual* by Adam Nevill: I picked this up because I have seen the movie and didn't realize at the time it was about a book. It falls into my favorite horror genre of folk-horror, aka "something ain't right in those woods." I was very curious how the book would differ, for the most part it was a very similar story. The same creeping dread pervaded the pages and the horror show of the characters dropping one by one as they find weird stuff in the woods was on point. The ending of the book was wildly different and honestly more interesting than the ending of the movie. My criticism is that the author's voice is so painfully hetero masc and I could have done without the fat-shaming and sexualization parts of all their conversations.

A reader from Wilmington read *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker: I haven't watched the film in at least a couple of decades, but I haven't ever read the book. This is one of the most popular book to film because Spielberg directed the 1985 adaptation, but with the recent 2023-24 musical version that came out, I've
decided to actually read the book itself. now that i’ve finished with the book, i thought it was meh. i now get the controversies of the more explicit sexual nature and why parents were more up in arms over it being in kid's reading curriculums. i dont know that ENJOYED is the right word, but i appreciated alice walker's writing about the journey of a black women's journey through life with every single kind of obstacle imaginable thrown at her. in today's context, we are often criticizing authors of using trauma as drama or maybe "trauma porn" or whatever term is used or overused now. but this work was published in the early 80s... so maybe works of fiction using trauma as a skeleton/bones to tell a story have been with us for a lot longer than we realize. overall i liked it, the writing was spot on, the characters deeply rooted in some facets of reality, based on interviews with walker, this had some roots traced back to her grandparents lives and journeys and the work showed. i like that the book is about how we are not defined by the trauma we lived through and experienced, but more by what is happening in the present, at every trajectory, the author makes it clear, Celie is focused on the present and not dwelling on what has happened to her in the past. i'm thinking of much later on in life when she started to work on fashion/clothes and she was her own person, she has her own skills and she made her own money and not just relied on hand outs from Shug or any other sources of crutches in her life.

A reader from Northampton read The Leftovers by Tom Perrotta: The premise is that the rapture, or something like it, has actually happened. Now, the people who remain have to figure out how to go on with their lives. It's weird and sad and odd, and not too different from non-rapture life. People do all sorts of things to find meaning and connection. Some find it, some keep searching.

A reader from Wrentham read Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Patterson: I had read this book as a child but had not seen the movie yet, so I wanted to re-read the book and then examine the movie as it related to the book. Both are stellar tales but I do love the child like wonder and emotion that the book provides!

A reader from Webster read Hidden Valley Road by Robert Kolker: The series Six schizophrenic brothers on HBO is an interesting supplement to the book.

A reader from South Hadley read Delicious in Dungeon, Vol. 13 by Ryoko Kui: Things have become incredible wild in the last few volumes! Not sure how the last book is going to wrap all of this up, but I can't wait to find out.

A reader from Yarmouth Port read Lonesome Dove by Larry McMurtry: the first western I have ever read, and now it won't be the last. I loved the style of writing, the connection to the characters, how their stories intertwined. I wasn't ready to say goodbye to them at the end - I wanted to keep reading!

A reader from Braintree read Brooklyn by Colm Toibin: Brooklyn is a wonderful book that was later made into a movie. It starts in small town Ireland where Eilis, the main character, gets a chance to move to Brooklyn, New York with the help of a priest. She fluctuates between wanting to go and wanting to stay in Ireland with her family and friends. She decides to go to America and meets many new people, including Tony, her future fiancé. Events back in her hometown in Ireland bring her back to the Emerald Isle, where she must decide what she wants for her future.

A reader from Braintree read Jaws by Peter Benchley: I was surprised about the involvement of the mafia, the town dynamics, and the relationships expanded that were in the book that were cut for the movie.

A reader from Turners Falls read The Handmaid’s Tale by Margaret Atwood: Saw the series first, which is usually not the case for me. I believe that if I read the book first, I would have enjoyed it more. But it was an enjoyable read regardless.
A reader from Woods Hole read *Breakfast at Tiffny's* by Truman Capote: The book is definitely a harsher reality than the movie. But... the movie is wonderful! I'm glad that I did choose this original story to read.

A reader from Attleboro read *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett: Enjoyed the journey the book took me on. Looking forward to watching the movie.

A reader from Burlington read *The Duke and I (Bridgerton #1)* by Julia Quinn: I am glad I already had the visuals from the tv show in my head, because the books are lacking a lot of the things that make the show exciting. Still a fun read.

A reader from Arlington read *Funeral in Berlin* by Len Deighton: Funeral in Berlin is a mid-1960’s spy thriller that was followed by a movie of the same name before the end of the 1960’s. The book is set in Berlin during the Cold War when Berlin was separated by the Berlin Wall. In this tandem, the book and the movie plots are quite similar. The book and movie open with a daring escape over the Berlin Wall using a crane and heavy steel construction bucket designed to lift concrete mix instead being used to hoist an escapee over the wall as East German guards fire automatic rifle rounds that bounced harmlessly off the sides of the bucket. I visited East and West Berlin in the 1980’s passing through the Berlin Wall at the well known Checkpoint Charlie. This opening scene was actually quite believable in contrast to opening sequences in the far better known today spy novel genre of James Bond. For reasons having to do with my professional education and personal ties to a headline Russian espionage case some fourteen years ago, I found this early narrative in the book true then and true today: “Most of the people who engaged in this unsavoury work had very little interest in the cause which they were paid to promote. They did not take their parts too seriously, and one or the other would occasionally go over to the opposite side, for espionage is an international and artistic profession, in which opinions matter less than the art of perfidy.” The plot evolves true to this observation. I found a lesson in the story, a prescient lesson on the part of an author writing over half a century ago, that some of these espionage stories that appear sensational as they splash across major news media are closer to reality just competition between rival intelligence services with little of value to the citizens of the rival countries. I cannot vouch that the following line from the story is true, but I suspect that we will see more of the former and less of the latter as events today increasingly mirror events of the Cold War: “In Russia we have a proverb, ‘Better a clever lie than the foolish truth.’” [Stok]

A reader from Norfolk read *Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt: Very interesting story - a little far fetched when it got to Vegas but plausible. The movie was very different but well done.

A reader from Woburn read *Where The Heart Is* by Billie Letts: I love this story...I've read it so many times and never gotten sick of it. The book is infinitely better than the movie and I highly recommend it, but be prepared to be heartbroken if you pick this up.

A reader from Lexington read *the tender bar* by J. R. Moehringer: I’m not sure why this book was so popular. It desperately needed an editor. Some of the content was interesting, but it wasn’t a cohesive whole. The movie was odious.

A reader from Tewksbury read *When He Was Wicked* by Julia Quinn: I very much enjoyed this installment of the Bridgerton series and can’t wait to see it on TV.

A reader from West Tisbury read *The Devil Wears Prada* by Lauren Weisberger: This was a quick but at times painful read. The main character is in her early twenties and many of her decisions and justifications for her actions are hard to witness. Still it had me turning on to the next page.
A reader from Chelmsford read *Erasure* by Percival Everett: The film *American Fiction* is based on this superb novel. I read the novel before seeing the film; both are worth your time in whichever order you read/view them.

A reader from Boston read *Sense & Sensibility* by Jane Austen: I was raised on the 1995 movie adaptation but I had never read the original work. I was surprised by how different it was!

A reader from Wakefield read *Apples Never Fall* by Liane Moriarty: I had enjoyed *Big Little Lies* and thought this one even better, especially having come from a similar family.

A reader from Barnstable read *Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown: As a former collegiate rower I enjoyed the book immensely. Not only did Dan Brown capture the intricacies and the beauty of competitive rowing, but he captured the very spirit of this once in a lifetime crew. I also think George Clooney did an excellent job with the movie adaption. Highly recommend this book.

A reader from Greenfield read *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams: Wasn't sure what to expect when I finally sat down to read this one. It was fun, if a bit too random for me.

A reader from San Leandro read *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry* by Gabrielle Zevin: I loved 'Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow,' so I decided to read another one of Zevin's novels. I was not disappointed. This is a story about books and those who read, sell, and cherish them. It's about found family, grief, and the quirkiness of small town life. The humorous banter made me laugh and tears were shed near the end. Some may say it's cheesy (they're not wrong), but I enjoyed it and look forward to watching the movie adaptation!

A reader from Southampton read *Normal People* by Sally Rooney: I liked this way more than I expected! I found the main characters compelling and I was invested in their often shifting relationship. I haven't seen the TV adaptation, so that's next for me.

A reader from Franklin read *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams: I decided to pick this up for the first time in decades after hearing it mentioned several times in the course of reading Elon Musk's biography last month. I enjoyed the absurd humor but, overall, found that the book didn't really hit with the same impact as the first time I'd read it.

A reader from Dracut read *It Ends With Us* by Colleen Hoover: Really enjoyed this. First time reading Colleen Hoover.

A reader from Arlington read *Strangers on a Train* by Patricia Highsmith: This delightfully suspenseful tale was made into an Alfred Hitchcock movie. What a creatively twisted mind Patricia Highsmith had! Now I want to read all her books.

A reader from Sandwich read *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee: Though this novel was written more than 80 years ago, we as a country are still dealing with issues of rape and and a dearth of equal justice for those accused falsely by prejudiced persons. Hope endures in the character of Attorney Atticus Finch who was appointed to defend the accused black man and does so at risk to his family's safety. There is a sweetness in the children's trust in Atticus to do the right thing and in their belief the town is a decent society. despite its prejudicial undercurrents.

A reader from Beverly read *Catherine, Called Birdy* by Karen Cushman: I loved this feisty, interesting main character!!
A reader from Florence read *Anthony Doerr* by All the Light I Cannot See: One of my favorite books of all time! I didn't much care for the tv series.

A reader from Brookline read *Call the Midwife* by Jennifer Worth: This is the first of several books on which the BBC/PBS series is based. Worth is a gifted chronicler of life in the post-war 1950s East End London Docklands. The books is a series of vignettes all tied together by the nuns and midwives of Nonnatus House. The sad stories of those who lived in dire poverty and horrid living conditions were balanced by stories of hope and the births of new babies and exceptional care (medical and otherwise) provided by the midwives. Characters are well developed and range from nuns and struggling families to prostitutes, pimps, and dock workers. The strength of women who held things together comes shining through. I was sorry the book ended, but I did enjoy the Appendix on the challenges of writing Cockney dialogue. That was a nice education on local language development which will serve others in decades to come as Cockney dies out. This is a MUST READ!

A reader from South Hadley read *The Expatriates* by Janice YK Lee: Read this as the series is now on Amazon Prime. Loved the different women and their trials in Hong Kong.

A reader from Wilmington read *Silver Linings Playbook* by Matthew Quick: Such an unlikely main character to root for.

A reader from Amesbury read *A Long Way Down* by Nick Hornby: Good, but not his best.

A reader from Groton read *Argyll* by Elly Conway: I really liked the book, though it differed quite a bit from the movie. It had lots of action and suspense, surprise twists, too.

A reader from Allston read *The Last Wish* by Andrzej Sakowski: Had watched the TV show and so glad I now have read the first book!

A reader from Scituate read *The Day of the Jackal* by Frederick Forsyth: I love the book as well as the movie but I am glad that I read the book first. I have re-read it many times. Quite a surprise to read of a friend's bakery mentioned in the book.

A reader from Wakefield read *One Day* by David Nicholls: Watched this on Netflix and was inspired to read the book, I really loved this story and would recommend it to anyone who needs a good laugh (and cry).

A reader from Boston read *One of Us is Lying* by Karen Mcmanus: "One of Us Is Lying" by Karen McManus is one of the most interesting novels I have ever read. I loved how the suspense keeps building up and the mystery took unexpected turns every few pages, keeping me constantly guessing. The climax was awesome; never saw it coming. For me, the best mystery books are those I can't solve until the end, and this book certainly lived up to that expectation.

A reader from Chelmsford read *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris: I enjoyed this book despite the setting. While it is so difficult to fathom living during this time and suffering the atrocities of concentration camps, it is also amazing to read of the human spirit, love, and strength that the characters in this book embraced in order to look ahead to life beyond. As always, I enjoyed the book more than the series. Though well acted, the story left out so many important details that tied the characters and story together. Read the book, skip the series.

A reader from South Weymouth read *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel Brown: In an unusual reverse for me, I saw the movie first then read the book. And realized that the movie totally left out George Pocock - the master crafter of racing shells, philosopher, and mentor who truly embodied the spirit of "the boat" -
the rowing team who brought home the gold medal in the 1936 Olympics. It is worth the read - the full story is so much more inspiring than the movie.

A reader from Whately read *The Marlow Murder Club* by Robert Thorogood: This novel has inspired a four part PBS Series scheduled to start in October. The story is about three women who investigate and help solve three murders. I enjoyed this book and look forward to watching the series.

A reader from Belchertown read *A Wing and A Prayer* by Harry H. Crosby: Inspired the Netflix miniseries. Beyond the heroic efforts of WW2 B-17 airman ultimately a story of an America First advocate who questioned war.

A reader from North Brookfield read *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown: I saw the movie and decided to read the book as part of this challenge. Very good!

A reader from Maynard read *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus: I very much loved this until the end, mostly because I found the prose laugh-out-loud funny and engaging, and read it in large chunks over a couple of days. Garmus is a good writer, and there's something about Elizabeth Zott and her autistic-coded tenacity that makes you want to find out what happens. However, this story is filled with a lot of "everything kind of works out" plot points and "everyone gets their comeuppance in the end" character arcs, on top of Elizabeth believing that prejudice based on racial, gender, or sexual orientation is inherently wrong from a scientific standpoint and therefore Garmus gets to shoehorn it into existence. While there is genuine trauma depicted, everything still felt tinged with a soft, hazy warmth of enjoying an engaging book.

A reader from Stoughton read *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie: The book is under development by Fox 2000 Pictures. Doubt it will ever get made due to the allegations against the author.

A reader from Wellesley read *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus: I really enjoyed this book! I'm not entirely sure how plausible it is, but it was an excellent feminist read.

A reader from Amherst read *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus: Set in the early 1960's a woman chemist is trying to make her way in a male-dominated field where all she gets, as intelligent as she is, is push back from her superiors and co-workers. She forms a bond with the most renowned member of the organization. The others find him hard to get along with but Elizabeth and he hit it off eventually moving in together. An accident changes Elizabeth's life and she starts to change things in her life. She leaves the institution where she has been fighting to fit in and has the opportunity to start a cooking show where once again the male bosses give her a hard time. It all evolves when the women viewers really get on board with the show. Elizabeth is a persistent and unflinching character who sticks to her own beliefs and handles what comes her way with grace.

A reader from Hadley read *Homicide* by David Simon: As soon as I saw the June prompt, I knew I would be reading Homicide, which inspired the groundbreaking TV show, The Wire.

A reader from Rockland read *The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown: Super cute children's book with great descriptions and imagery. Looking forward to seeing the movie when it comes out soon!

A reader from Hampden read *Poodle Springs* by Raymond Chandler and Robert P. Parker: Recommended. Raymond Chandler, inventor of the hard-boiled detective novel and Robert B. Parker, Chandler's worthy successor, collaborated in the last mystery in the Phillip Marlowe series. Chandler wrote the first four chapters just before his death, and the Chandler family engaged Parker to complete
this first-rate story that is full of suspense and surprise. Marlowe is finally married but has not lost his skill at finding trouble at every turn. Parker's and Chandler's Marlowe is interchangeable and intriguing in a fictional version of Palm Springs. If the movie had stayed true to the book, it too could have been memorable.

A reader from Wrentham read *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen: Water for Elephants was a book that I had wanted to read for a long time but hadn't gotten around to. The theme for June was the perfect excuse to read it and it did not disappoint. Well written and very entertaining.

A reader from Pepperell read *The Ministry of Time* by Kaliane Bradley: This novel sounded just right for me, but overall didn’t meet my expectations. Where I thought I was getting a fun, swoony time travel romance/spy thriller, I ended up with a plodding plot and a main character who was a bit of a tough hang. By the end it all felt murky. There were aspects I enjoyed, so marking this a 3-star read. Still interested in the future BBC mini-series adaptation.

A reader from Mattapoisett read *The Lost Girls* by Robert Kolker: Lots of bad, information on the victims, not as much on the investigation. Looking forward to watching the movie about it.

A reader from Longmeadow read *Outlander* by Diana Gabaldon: I found this book on a Google search list. I chose it from the list because it was first and because I like reading about Scotland and castles. I didn’t much like it because it had too much descriptive violence and torture and risqué romance and too much swearing of a different kind. I will not be watching the TV series.

A reader from Ashburnham read *The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman: a delight!

A reader from Pepperell read *The Flight Attendant* by Chris Bohjalian: This book inspired the TV series on Hulu by the same name. The story was interesting enough, but not enough to make me want to watch the series.

A reader from East Freetown read *The One* by John Marrs: My June read for this challenge was The One by John Marrs. I really enjoyed the multiple points of view, thoroughly developed characters, and plot twists of The One. The idea of there being a perfect DNA match for each person is very intriguing, and this book inspired the Netflix series “The One.”

A reader from Woburn read *The ballad of songbirds and snakes* by Suzanne Collins: I love Suzanne Collins work. her background in script writing really helps her write work that fits on the big screen.

A reader from Groton read *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood: I was intrigued to see this title under the suggestions for June because I have seen many of the commercials for this TV series. It was such an interesting take on a futuristic society. I am now reserving the sequel from my public library because I want to see where the story goes.

A reader from New Bedford read *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker: To say it was a very moving book is an understatement. Celie, the protagonist, expresses her feelings through the only outlet she really had - letters. She had so much love in her heart despite the fact that she was uneducated and was sexually, physically and emotionally abused by so many in her life. In the end her love and hope endured. And she finally found peace (and the family) she’d been longing for over the decades.

A reader from Dracut read *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel: I'm interested in how the multiple perspectives and timelines transfer to the screen.
A reader from Shutesbury read *Gone with the Wind* by Margaret Mitchell: In spite of the disrespectful portrayal of enslaved people, the story is well written and a compelling story of privilege and the horrors of war.

A reader from Lowell read *The Clocks and After the Funeral* by Agatha Christie: Having recently watched the PBS series featuring Hercule Poirot decided to read a few of the mysteries upon which the program was based. Found that both were enjoyable and the series was pretty true to the plotlines with some differences which was to be expected.

A reader from Wakefield read *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann: Very interesting topic to learn about. Excited to watch the film and see how it compares.

A reader from Quincy read *All the Light We Cannot See* by A: This book was excellent. I loved the short chapters and the frequent perspective changes.


A reader from Boston read *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown: Every year I say I'm not going to read another WWII book, but here we are. I love a good sports story, and this one didn't disappoint. I was pulled into Joe and the crew's story immediately, and found myself down internet search rabbit holes. I'm left wanting more stories of the USA in the 30s - not of WWII but of the depression, rebuilding America, the dust bowl...I'm looking forward to reliving the story and watching the movie soon.

A reader from Oxford read *Normal People* by Sally Rooney: Not a good book at all, would not recommend!

A reader from Wrentham read *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio: I thoroughly enjoyed this book. It had a good lesson to always "Be Kind". I would definitely recommend this book to others. I don't think I'll watch the movie though as I'm not a fan of watching movies or TV shows made from books.

A reader from Wenham read *Perfect World* by Rie Aruga: This manga series delves into the life of wheelchair users, telling the story of a wheelchair user and non-wheelchair user who fall in love. There are ups and downs and I definitely cried a lot, but I really enjoyed the story and unique perspective.

A reader from Malden read *The Cabin at the End of the World* by Paul Tremblay: I am a horror fanatic but somehow never got around to reading this until now and I LOVED it. The ending was quite a ride, but I think it was perfect. The movie was also excellent, but the book is always better!

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie: This was actually my first Agatha Christie book! I don't read a lot of mysteries, but I thought this was a fast and entertaining read. Loved the ending!

A reader from Springfield read *Fire & Blood* by George RR Martin: Enjoyed reading this history style book, was a lot faster to get through than anticipated. Since the book is written by an in universe character it's interesting to hear the biases and the acknowledgements of unreliable sources.

A reader from belmont read *pride and prejudice* by jane austen: have never actually seen the movie but i really should at some point.
A reader from Sunderland read *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus: One of my favorite books! Funny, sad, and cute - this book hits on all the emotions. Now an Apple TV series, which is also a great watch.

A reader from Brighton read *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood: I'm glad I finally had the chance to read this book. I really liked reading this book and was so invested in it. I've never watched the TV series that is based on it, but would be interested to see how it compares.

A reader from Berkley read *A Simple Favor* by Darcey Bell: Great thriller! and an easy read!

A reader from Dracut read *My Brilliant Friend* by Elena Ferrante: Really interesting viewpoint into the lives of normal Italian people post WW2 from the perspective of a child growing up and a meditation on friendships and competition.

A reader from Lawrence read *Nimona* by ND Stevenson: Book that inspired a movie or TV show.

A reader from Gloucester read *Alias Grace* by Margaret Atwood: Well-written novel about woman convicted in 19th century Canadian murder case. Language and grammar convey strong sense of time and place. Breathtaking observations of environment; stunning comments on human condition. Book seemed long to me, but I'm a slow reader. Not a fan of its surprise ending, but it certainly explained characters' confusion throughout book.

A reader from Boylston read *Under the Bridge: The True Story of the Murder of Reena Virk* by Rebecca Godfrey: Interesting and saddening perspective of a murder investigation.

A reader from Amherst read *Alice Adams* by Booth Tarkington: I read the book then watched the film. The book was published in 1921 and the movie was from 1935. Both are dated with racist elements and language. The book is an excellent portrayal of the narrow class based society in middle America in the early 20th century. It also shows that that were not many opportunities for women besides marriage. The movie has a young and beautiful Katherine Hepburn. Her co-star is an equally young Fred McMurray. I enjoyed both the book and the movie.

A reader from Belchertown read *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* by J.K.Rowling: Loved rereading this with the kids and comparing the film.

A reader from Shrewsbury read *The Wheel Spins (The Lady Vanishes)* by Ethel Lina White: After seeing the movie multiple times, the book was rather boring.

A reader from Webster read *My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult: THE ENDING - Now I need to watch the movie and see what they changed...

A reader from Boston read *The Cruelest Month* by Louise Penny: This was the 3rd book in the Inspector Gamache mystery series that inspired "Three Pines". I can't wait to see what's in store for the Inspector next...so far each book has a new murder and a through line mystery from a past investigation. How can a small town harbor so many murderers!

A reader from Topsfield read *The Witcher: Library Edition* by Paul Tobin: I had previously read (and enjoyed) the Sapkowski books, but wanted to check out this graphic novel. Canonically, very close to the novels and the visuals are great.

A reader from STOUGHTON read *The Duke and I* by Julia Quinn: Great book!

A reader from Wrentham read *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen: It's my favorite!
A reader from Hopkinton read *A Room with a View* by E. M. Forster: I saw the movie years ago, before reading the book. I enjoyed the writing from long ago, and the representation of where women stood in the world at that time. The best scene was of the boys skinny dipping in the pond.

A reader from Beverly read *Mrs. Dalloway* by Virginia Woolf: I saw the new opera of The Hours last year and having never read anything by Virginia Woolf I decided to give it a try. Stream of consciousness is difficult at first but once you get into the rhythm it flows well. Loved the book - thought it was brilliant. The first line -- "Mrs. Dalloway said that she would buy the flowers" is right up there with "Call Me Ishmael" in my mind.

A reader from ROSLINDALE read *The passionate epicure* by Marcel Rouff: I'm glad I looked up the original book after having watched the movie "A Taste of Things"! Usually, I don't like it al all when an adaption strays this far from the original, but this one improved upon the book, which was a bit TOO much "a product of its times".

A reader from Boston read *The Other Black Girl* by Zakiya Dalila Harris: At times, I found myself wondering if the narrator was reliable which made it an interesting read. I didn't love the ending, but I could see how it might appeal to other readers.

A reader from Chelmsford read *The Bridges of Madison County* by Robert James Waller: Excellent read. Nice story.

A reader from Rochester read *Slow Horses* by Mick Herron: A British spy thriller based on Mick Herron’s Slough House series features MI5 service rejects known as “slow horses.” Despite having a miserable boss and being assigned to the administrative purgatory called Slough House, where they are given dull paper-pushing tasks, they somehow get involved investigating schemes threatening their country. The series by the same name is on AppleTV, but I haven’t seen it.

A reader from danvers read *All Creatures Great and Small* by James Herriot: "All Creatures Great and Small" by James Herriot offers a charming glimpse into the life of a young veterinarian in the 1930s Yorkshire Dales. Herriot portrays the joys and challenges of rural animal care, highlighting the enduring bond between humans and animals. His storytelling, filled with warmth and humor, paints a vivid picture of the countryside and the people who inhabit it. I have read the books and watched the PBS Masterpiece!

A reader from East Falmouth read *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close* by Close Foer, Jonathan Safran: Have never seen the movie, but I now I will!

A reader from Quincy read *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* by JK Rowling: This was a reread for me after I performed in a production of Puffs (HP from the Hufflepuff perspective!) and I enjoyed it quite a bit.

A reader from Byfield read *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus: Loved this book! :) Worth the hype.

A reader from Braintree read *The ballads of songbirds and snakes* by Suzanne Collins: I read and love the Hunger Games books so I was excited to read this book. I enjoyed the backstory of Snow and that this backstory did not ruin Hunger Games book but instead added to the story.

A reader from Eden Prairie read *The Statistical Probability of Love at First Sight* by Jennifer E. Smith: I was pleasantly surprised by this YA novel. I was expecting the tired trope of: girl meets boy, girl finds herself in some distress and gets rescued by boy, who in turn helps her identify her own feelings about said boy. Thankfully, this was not that! In this story, the girl, Hadley, meets boy, Oliver, in the midst of coping with her own difficult family dynamics. I really liked that throughout the entire book, the primary
focus is on Hadley dealing with her emotions and experiences related to her family. Hadley is self-possessed, decisive and shows a lot of initiative. I appreciate this depiction of a young woman; I think it is much more normative than what we are often handed particularly in romantic stories. It was a quick, enjoyable read that gave me little butterflies in certain moments. I recommend.

A reader from Blackstone read Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng: Really enjoyed the book and I'm looking forward to watching the show!

A reader from Beverly read Meg: A Novel of Deep Terror by Steve Alten: This book series is so much better than the movie. Its like they took the most basic idea from the books and made them into movies. The characters are far more developed in the books. And the science is explained more as well.

A reader from Harwich read The Guards by Ken Bruen: The Guards, by Ken Bruen, is the first of 17 novels in the Jack Taylor series; many have been serialized for television, and are available to watch on Acorn TV. These noir, character-driven, contemporary crime novels are set in Galway, a place dear to my heart.

A reader from Salem read orange is the new black by piper kerman: Enjoyed the book and series.

A reader from Wilmington read The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold in the 1936 Berlin Olympics by Daniel James Brown: I really enjoyed this true story about the nine boys who didn't know each other but were chosen to be on the Olympic crew team in 1936 Berlin. It was a time with Hitler was in charge, so it wasn't a safe place to be for many people. It was so exciting and inspiring to read this story. Now I'm going to watch the movie.

A reader from Amherst read dune by Frank Hebertt: Enjoyable. Don’t think I’ll read the whole series, however.

A reader from Berkley read Under the Bridge by Rebecca Godfrey: Loved the book! Intelligently written true crime. Not as much of a fan of the Hulu series.

A reader from Florence read Jeeves in the Offing by PD Wodehouse: This month was a great excuse to read more Wodehouse. It was, of course, hilarious.

A reader from Andover read Miss Marple: the Complete Short Stories by Agatha Christie: Agatha Christie's works have inspired numerous TV series and movies. Miss Marple is one of the best! It is a pleasure to re-read and have the best sets and actors in mind when reading. I can hear their voices clearly as I read.

A reader from Beverley read A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles: I absolutely loved this book. It is fullled with beautiful language and a real sense of time and place that is often poorly done in the world of historical fiction. It is also one of the rare occasions where I wasn't disappointed by the series created from a book. I know I will read this again in the future, and I do not often revisit books.

A reader from Bellingham read American Psycho by Bret Easton Ellis: I was too young when the book/movie came out for American Psycho and I managed to avoid any plot details. (I still haven't seen the movie) It doesn't take much reading to realize why in some countries it's sold plastic wrapped for how disturbing and controversial it is. I think it was interesting to read this 33 year old novel from a 2024 lens. Also, I read The Picture Of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde earlier this year and seeing the overlapping themes was actually really intriguing. (The corruption of mortality, the desire to stay young and flawless to be able to use it for power. the obsession with aesthetics. etc.).
A reader from Foxborough read Big Little Lies by Liane Moriarty: This one wasn't for me. I stuck it out, but I wasn't into it. So much centers around children and husbands, which don't appeal to me. I've been meaning to read it for a while though, so it's nice to take it off the TBR at least.

A reader from Fitchburg read Conversations with Friends: A Novel by Sally Rooney: I loved the authors writing style, it really draws you in and makes you want to continue reading. I can see how this novel was turned into a series. I'm compelled to watch the series now but also hesitant. Will the series live up to my expectations? Will everything be as I envisioned it? Will watching the story be as captivating as reading it? Will it leave me craving more?

A reader from Northampton read Breakfast at Tiffany's by Truman Capote: a light enjoyable read. could not shake off picturing Audrey Hepburn however so will definitely resume my custom of reading the book before I see the movie.

A reader from Leominster read Contact by Carl Sagan: Great characters and a plot that unfolds slowly but surely. The book definitely leaves the reader with some questions to ponder.

A reader from Pepperell read All the President's Men by Bernstein & Woodward: Interesting to read the book that inspired the movie.

A reader from Ashland read Nimona by ND Stevenson: So good!!!

A reader from Naples read Killers of the Flower Moon by David Grann: I read the book before I saw the film. Both were amazing in their own way, but I was glad that I had read the book for details that could be missed when watching the film or were omitted.

A reader from Billerica read Katherine Center by The Bodyguard: I wanted to read this book before the Netflix movie came out, and I absolutely loved it! I really enjoyed the well-rounded characters and message of living life to the fullest.

A reader from North Reading read The School for Good and Evil by Soman Chainani: I haven't seen the series on Netflix, but I am planning to check it out after finishing the book!

A reader from Foxboro read Survival of the Thickest by Michelle Buteau: Love this book. She is very inspiring and makes being a thick girl okay!

A reader from Shrewsbury read A Game of Thrones by George R. R. Martin: Like the book and the show.

A reader from Harwich read The Last Picture Show by Larry McMurtry: Great storyteller!

A reader from Hubbardston read Romancing Mr. Bridgerton by Julia Quinn: I had read through the Bridgerton series a few years back when Season 1 of the Netflix show first came out, but as it has been awhile I decided to give this book a re-read after watching Season 3. It was so interesting to see which parts I hadn't remembered, what made it onto the show, and what didn't.

A reader from Manchester read Dark Matter by Blake Crouch: Couldn't put this one down, excited to the Apple TV show. But the book is always better ;-) 

A reader from Florence read Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus: Aside from a few dark parts, I really enjoyed this book. It amazes me that some of the stereotypes and abuses of women so prevalent in the 1950s are still alive today!!
A reader from North Weymouth read *The Good Earth* by Pearl Buck: So glad I read it again, as it had been at least 30 years since I read it the first time. A wonderfully descriptive book. I was sorry it had to end.

A reader from Sandwich read *Daisy Jones and the Six* by Taylor Jenkins Reid: Though the whole book is the script of a fictional music documentary, I couldn't put it down and felt so swept up by the characters and their rock star lives. I found the love story so gut wrenching and real and will definitely be checking out the TV show now that I've read it!

A reader from Melrose read *The Body in the Library* by Agatha Christie: Miss Marple makes for perfect summer reading!

A reader from Needham Heights read *Leigh Bardugo* by Shadow and Bone: I very much enjoyed the Alex Stern books from this author as well as her recent standalone *The Familiar* so I was happy to have an excuse to pick this one up!

A reader from Reading read *M.A.S.H.* by Richard Hooker: The unassuming little book that, like the novel the Planet of the Apes was based on, somehow kicked off a big franchise. I never really watched the TV show M.A.S.H. beyond absorbing it as part of the culture around me in the 1980s, as it was fairly ubiquitous. To this day I've never seen the movie (although it was the passing of Donald Sutherland, who starred in the film in the role Alan Alda would later play in the TV series, that gave me the idea of reading this book this month). It really is a fairly straightforward book - it reminds me of a gentler, less politically charged *Catch-22*. But I do wonder if that approach is what made the "authority-tweaking wiseass military guy" so much more palatable to general audiences that it arguably became the standard American pop culture view of the military, replacing the staid and noble (but stiff and square) soldiers played by the likes of John Wayne.

A reader from Stanford read *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens: The novel is about a young girl, Kya who is abandoned by her family. She has to learn how to take care of herself in the marshlands of North Carolina. She receives comfort and sustenance from the nature that surrounds her. I thoroughly enjoyed this murder/mystery.

A reader from Springfield read *Fight Club* by Chuck Palahniuk: I watched the movie years ago and remembered very little of the story aside from the twist ending, so it felt like a fresh read. I really enjoyed the dark surrealism that ramps up throughout the book, and reading the afterward about the influences behind Fight Club, and also how Fight Club has influenced audiences, was a nice cherry on top.

A reader from Dracut read *The are of racing in the rain* by Garth Stein: This book made me violently sob and I still think about it to this day (I read it at the beginning of the month). I haven't watched the movie yet but I want to.

A reader from Sharon read *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann: Very compelling book and movie.

A reader from Brewster read *Looking For Rachel Wallace - Spenser series* by Robert B. Parker: The Spenser detective series written by Robert B. Parker in the 1970's and 1980's inspired a popular television series. The books and series featured a private detective, ex-cop Spenser who lives and works in Boston. Spenser who is cool, big and tough loves to cook and is very good at nabbing bad guys. His side-kick is a soft spoken Black man called "Hawk" who says little and does a lot. Part of the fun in these well-written books is the familiar setting of Boston and neighboring towns. I recommend "Looking For Rachel Wallace" to start.
A reader from Lowell read *the flight attendant* by Chris Bohjalian: I was entertained. Mildly surprising twists at the end. I’ll probably watch the show after reading it for this challenge.

A reader from Andover read *Leviathan Wakes* by James S. A. Corey: A world to get lost in, with characters that are only too real. Watched the first two episodes and felt enraged. The book was so, so, so much better.

A reader from Lynn read *The Good House* by Ann Leary: Fav book of the year! And I loved the movie, too.

A reader from Reading read *Codename Villanelle* by Luke Jennings: I found the tone of this book surprisingly different than the TV show, although I've only seen a few episodes. I thought the book was fine, but not as different from the traditional thriller as I thought it would be.

A reader from Dracut read *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett: Loved the movie so had to read the book. Glad I did.

A reader from Seekonk read *Blue is the Warmest Color* by Jul Maroh: Heartbreakingly beautiful journey of stumbling into and embracing love (and far surpasses its film adaptation).

A reader from Boston read *From Darkness to Sight: a journey from hardship to healing* by Ming Wang: An encouraging and inspiring autograph chronicles the remarkable life of Dr Ming Wang, a Chinese immigrant, a world renowned laser eye surgeon and philanthropist, the original book of film "Sight" released on the Memorial Day weekend and now available to stream.

A reader from Beverly read *The Lucky One* by Nicholas Sparks: This was the first book I've read by this author and I can't say it inspired me to read more of his work or see the movie that was based on this book. There was nothing 'wrong' with it, just not my style.

A reader from Vineyard Haven read *Things We Never Got Over* by Lucy Score: It's was okay. Didn't love it, but didn't hate it.

A reader from Vineyard Haven read *Eligible* by Curtis Sittenfeld: Loved this book sooooooo much!

A reader from Fairhaven read *Lost Girls: An Unsolved American Mystery* by Robert Kolker: true crime :)

A reader from Ipswich read *Little Children* by Tom Perrotta: New to this author; but enjoyed this book. Not my usual type, but glad I read it.

A reader from Chester read *After That Night* by Karin Slaughter: I have always liked Slaughter's books and I love the Will Trent series on TV. Of course characters are different in TV series- I actually like the literary characters better- but they are both well done.

A reader from Spencer read *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien: Always a pleasure to enjoy the fantasy world of hobbits, elves, dwarfs, and the timeless relationships between people with different values. Exciting adventures cannot fully be realized on screen. Both enjoyable.

A reader from Readville/Yarmouth read *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee: I thoroughly enjoyed rereading this classic, this time with a focus on the perspective of Calpurnia, the Finch's maid. I look forward to watching the movie again, as well.

A reader from Belchertown read *To kill a mockingbird* by Harper Lee: Classic. Still so timely.
A reader from Melrose read *Black Cake* by Charmaine Wilkerson: Loved this family story with the theme of the Black Cake running thru its history. My family has a special recipe that is present at most of our family's celebrations. The love that surrounded Covey/Eleanor, helped her succeed when others would be overwhelmed. The book took us across oceans and continents. It was a great story of life.

A reader from Plainville read *Outlander* by Diana Gabaldon: I should have known I was not the target audience here...

A reader from Dartmouth read *One True Loves* by Taylor Jenkins Reid: Really enjoyed the book. It was the first book I read by this author. I will probably read another one by her. I watched the movie and thought it followed the book pretty accurately. I would recommend both.

A reader from Wakefield read *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown: I saw the movie before I knew there was a book. It was always unavailable at my library. I was only able to borrow the borrow the shorter Young Reader edition. It was excellent like the movie. It was so good, when the full version becomes available, I'll read that also. I love an underdog story. This was great because the author was able to interview one of the "boys". Highly recommend the book and movie.

A reader from Andover read *Killers of the Flower Moon: the Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI* by David Grann: This nonfiction book reads like fiction. I was shocked by what the book discloses about the treatment and murders of the Osage Indians. I highly recommend reading this book. I wanted to read the book before watching the movie so that I can compare it to the book for accuracy.

A reader from Shrewsbury read *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly: Probably the first time I have ever liked the movie better than the book.

A reader from Ayer read *the haunting of hill house* by Shirley Jackson: I enjoyed this story more than I thought I would. Very creepy and thought provoking. I hear the series on Netflix has a different take on the story, but that it is good.

A reader from Longmeadow read *Voyager* by Diana Gabaldon: I absolutely love reading the Outlander books and watching the TV show in tandem. This book is the third season of the show. Similarly to the first two books and seasons, I have never seen a show or movie stick closer to the source material than this series. It is often word-for-word and truly just a perfect representation of the books. I highly enjoy this series, even though the books are incredibly long. I still love them!!

A reader from Natick read *Antony and Cleopatra* by William Shakespeare: My favorite Shakespeare play that I have read so far!

A reader from Melrose read *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann: The story is well constructed and feels well researched. I definitely felt like I was reading a history, which I haven’t done in a while. I liked it and felt like I was learning.

A reader from Stoughton read *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Gann: I bought this last year in anticipation of the Scorsese film but only now have read it... and still have yet to see the movie. Gann's account of countless Osage murders at the hands of greedy white Americans is a sad look at human nature, specifically how those with privilege but without much power and money will sometimes to anything to acquire power and money and keep the disadvantaged from having power over their own lives and enough to live happily and comfortably. While Gann's subtitle references the nascent FBI, I was more moved by his last chapters that started to explore the long-reaching implications for the Osage of losing so many of a generation, even a century later.
A reader from Berlin read *Ali and Nino* by Kurban Said: I also read this because a book club I belong to had the prompt of a book set in Eastern Europe. "Ali and Nino" was written in 1937 by Kurban Said (pseudonym). It is about a Muslim boy from Azerbaijan and a Christian girl from Georgia (the country) and they fall in love as kids at school. Set before WWI, it follows their story for the next few years. It focuses on their relationship but also the liminal space they inhabit because they are from very separate cultures, which have drastically different expectations. As the story is set in Baku, Azerbaijan, which is seen as the gateway from Europe to Asia, it too is a liminal space. While many folks classify this as a love story, I do not necessarily agree. But it is a worthwhile book and it inspired the 2016 film of the same name.

A reader from Berlin read *The Flight Portfolio* by Julie Orringer: Based on the true story of Varian Fry and the Emergency Relief Committee in Marseilles, France during 1940, and Julie Orringer's semi-fictionalized account of Fry's life and experiences in Marseilles. The individuals at the ERC work to save refugees, some of which are the intellectual and creative minds of the 20th century, but with their collective efforts, they save over 2,000 lives. Based on real people and their stories: Cory Michael Smith plays Varian Fry, a queer American journalist working to save Europe's intellectuals from persecution and genocide. Gillian Jacobs plays Mary Jayne Gold, an American socialite working with Fry at the ERC who is far more than she seems. Lucas Engander plays Albert Hirschman, an ingenuous, debonair, and keenly sharp economist and refugee who joins the ERC’s mission. Deleila Piasko plays Lisa Fittko, a determined and tough individual who helps lead refugees over the Pyrenees. Lucas Engander made me cry thrice within the first episode alone. I’m struggling to find the words to explain my love and admiration for not only “The Flight Portfolio” but the adaptation, “Transatlantic.” Before picking up “The Flight Portfolio,” I had never heard of any of these individuals and the ERC. But they saved over 2,000 refugees while governments, like the United States, stonewalled their efforts at nearly every turn. They show how individual and small organisational efforts can still have a massive impact and save lives: each of us can make a difference and fight against fascism and genocide.

A reader from Springfield read *The Hunger Games the Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* by Suzanne Collins: This was a good book that gave some back story to the Hunger Games trilogy. It was a good read and once I got into it, I couldn't put it down.

A reader from Brookline read *Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatga Christie: A Classic! The movie was good, but of course the original book was better. Who can help but want to detect along with Hercule Poirot?!

A reader from HOPKINTON read *Twelve Patients: Life and Death at Bellevue Hospital* by Eric Manheimer: I read this for the June challenge.

A reader from Boston read *Heartburn* by Nora Ephron: This was a great example of the challenge encouraging me to read something that had been on my list for a long time! The book was kind of cringey in parts, which makes me wonder if the movie is, too. Hilarious, of course, but very much a product of its time! Cheers, Nora.

A reader from Atkinson read *The Last Thing He Told Me* by Laura Dave: I loved all the twists and turns!

A reader from Northampton read *Crazy Rich Asians* by Kevin Kwan: I read this because I love the film adaptation and was definitely not disappointed! The characters are even more conniving and rich in the books! The world that Kwan creates is so lush and full of drama and it is such a fun book to read (and listen to!)
A reader from Northampton read *China Rich Girlfriend* by Kevin Kwan: Reads like a very fun soap opera. Drama, intrigue, and lots of abundance!

A reader from Worcester read *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus: This book was so good. One of my new favorites. I would’ve kept reading if it kept going. Couldn’t get enough of E. Zott and her growing chosen family. 10/10 would recommend to anyone.

A reader from North Andover read *Good Omens* by Terry Pratchett, Neil Gaiman: I enjoyed Terry Pratchett's sense of humor, and Neil Gaiman is a master of the "dark" themes. One of my favorite aspects was the "new" horsemen of the Apocalypse, updated for our current times.

A reader from Ipswich read *Firefly Lane* by Kristin Hannah: I loved this book! The setting was nostalgic for me. It was a little longer than it needed to be but I really enjoyed it. I probably won’t read the sequel but I’d love to watch the series!

A reader from Danvers read *Dune* by Frank Herbert: First time reading it, and I liked it! Not sure I'll read the rest of the series, but maybe I'll watch the movies.

A reader from Scituate read *dune* by Herbert: A complex novel, so I listened to it on audio and supplemented with summary guides. But I loved it and its complexity! Highly recommend and urge anyone who is thinking about it to not be scared off by its length.

A reader from Reading read *The Duke and I* by Quinn, Julia: A bit on the traditional side for me.

A reader from FOXBOROUGH read *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly: Such a good story and so well written. Delightful!

A reader from Seekonk read *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins: Great YA series that inspired a movie series. A quick read and it was nice to share this with my teenagers.

A reader from Canton read *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak: It was really sad and I cried a lot. I'm definitely gonna watch the movie.

A reader from Chelmsford read *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen: One of my favorite films is Pride & Prejudice (2005) yet I had never read the book despite being a huge fan of classics, so I thought this would be the perfect time to finally read it. I enjoyed it immensely and was so sad for it to be over when I finished it! I loved seeing more of the characters and scenes that didn't make it into the film. The main romance was even more compelling in the book and I feel that the book provided a much clearer picture of Elizabeth and Darcy's relationship and its progression. Of course I immediately re-watched the film, and the book only enhanced my love for it.

A reader from Brighton read "Barn Burning" by William Faulkner: Summer is a time to reflect on old favorites for me. This short story in his Collected Stories, has been very meaningful in its head-on confrontation with poverty. I was excited to discover that it was the basis for another short story, "Burning", by Haruki Murakami, which has then been adapted into a Korean film, which references Faulkner a few times. Joan Didion too is a Faulknerian writer, especially evident in her non-fiction. I love tracing literary history.

A reader from Dennisport read *The Bookshop* by Penelope Fitzgerald: Enjoyed book & film- interested in reading more by the author.
A reader from Amherst read *Follow the Rabbit Proof Fence* by Doris Pilkington/Nugi Garimara: A very sad book to read, documenting the destruction of the Australian Aboriginal lifestyle and environment, the taking of their women and children. Those three brave girls who escaped (one died) to get home—that was harrowing and sad. At least two of them survived, but it's the same old story of exploitation and destruction by more powerful settlers, much like what happened with Native Americans.

A reader from Georgetown read *The Handmaid’s Tale* by Margaret Atwood: LOVED this but was so surprised by how little the book covered. I had seen the show which takes the story and then obviously adds more and more with each season! Obviously the basics came from the book and I’m assuming Margaret Atwood helped with the scripts and tv story but what an incredible story to base the series off of. Such a bizarre concept but so in detail, she thought of everything! Thoroughly enjoyed it.

A reader from Amherst read *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens: This was a very interesting book that was well written and gave lots to think about. How do we take care of each other instead of shun? How can we value knowledge and expertise of a place even without formal education? As a science teacher I loved all of the details of the natural world too.

A reader from WEST BOYLSTON read *The Art Thief* by Michael Finkel: This nonfiction book is about a young couple who stole over 200 pieces of art across Europe in the 1990’s before being caught. Their thefts all occurred during open museum hours; they entered and exited the museums as patrons. The details about how they pulled it off are fascinating.

A reader from Worcester read *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* by Suzanne Collins: This is one of the rare times where I read the book after seeing the movie. Both are fantastic!

A reader from Foxborough read *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton: This book is so special to me. I hated reading until I read this for the first time in 5th grade, and then went on to read her next 4 books. This inspired an impressive movie adaptation in 1983 starring relatively unknowns (at the time) Patrick Swayze, Rob Lowe, C. Thomas Howell, Emilio Estevez, Tom Cruise, and Ralph Macchio. In the 1990s the story of The Outsiders continued as a TV show, and this year it became a Tony winning musical.

A reader from Rockland read *The Midwich Cuckoos* by John Wyndham: A book I otherwise probably wouldn’t have read. Pretty creepy and weird. I want to watch one of the movies now.

A reader from Hopkinton read *hunger games* by suzanne collins: I love this book and it was even better the second time around.

A reader from Beverly read *The Dig: A Novel Based on True Events* by John Preston: Watched the movie first, which was beautiful! The book includes so much more information than the film, so much so I almost stopped reading, but am glad I didn't for the reading picked up speed as the book continued. Ended up loving the book more than the movie, even though the actors are among my favorites! P.S. Read *A Walk in the Woods* for last month's selection and was able to find the film version with Robert Redford ... the book and the film were true to each other; quite enjoyable!

A reader from Dartmouth read *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* by Dr. Seuss: It has been a while since I read this childhood favorite. The message of Christmastime has remained relevant through the years - Maybe Christmas doesn’t come from a store. Maybe Christmas perhaps means a little bit more! The movies recreating the book have been great.
A reader from Northampton read *Leave the World Behind* by Rumaan Alam: Intriguing story, but the writing was distracting. A lot of the phrasing and vocabulary was awkwardly over the top (ie cringe). I will watch the movie version if I ever reactivate my Netflix account.

A reader from SOUTH HADLEY read *Daisy Jones and the Six* by Taylor Jenkins Reid: I really wanted to like this book, which has been adapted into an Amazon Prime movie, but I could not embrace the dialogue-only method of telling the story. I found it hard to believe, and although I wanted to know how the story ended, I did not care a lot for the characters.

A reader from Burlington read *Wool* by Hugh Howey: This is a very good post-apocalyptic sci-fi book. The plot runs quickly, the characters are very relatable, and you will speed through to the end without question. The world seems to constantly expand, until by the end of this (just the first) book, you feel like you might have achieved high-level knowledge about the world. Maybe things will be different now because of the ending. Maybe there are more expansions to take place in subsequent chapters. Either way, I'm glad I read this, and I look forward to seeing the adaptation on Apple+.

A reader from Amherst read *Heartstopper* by Alice Oseman: So wonderful and sweet.

A reader from Braintree read *Brideshead Revisited* by Evelyn Waugh: I will watch the movie next.

A reader from Edgartown read *Brooklyn* by Colm Toibin: A beautiful book.

A reader from Middleboro read *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak: Reading this book is like visiting an old friend. This book has always been a favorite, and it’s been years since I read it. The category seemed like the perfect chance to re-read it. It was and is an instant classic.

A reader from Wakefield read *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins: I already read the book and it was good.

A reader from Dedham read *The Ritual* by Adam Nevill: The Ritual was the inspiration for the 2017 Netflix horror movie of the same name. I rarely have this opinion, but I believe the movie is better than the novel. This shocked me since I liked the movie and thought if I liked the movie, the novel had to be better. I think if I had read the novel first, I might have not watched the movie. The first half of the novel was great, some differences with the movie, but I was ok with it and still liked it. The second half of the novel goes downhill quickly and makes reading the rest of the book a chore. I suggest just watching the movie, it would be more enjoyable if you like horror movies.

A reader from Burlington read *The Longest Ride* by Nicholas Sparks: I loved this book. I really enjoyed the back and forth of time periods, which helped to drive home the fact that love stories are timeless. This was just a nice, easy read, that kept me wanting to find out more about the characters and how the pieces tied together at the end. Coincidentally, this was the second book that I have read in this challenge that focused a bit on art (not my favorite topic to read about) but I still enjoyed it due to how the story of the art tied into the lives of all the characters and really brought them together. Beautiful!

A reader from Seekonk read *The Ghost and Mrs. Muir* by R. A. Dick: It was interesting to revisit the *The Ghost and Mrs. Muir* which I had seen as a television series many years ago. The plot was a bit different than the series, but still an enjoyable read and I could see why the changes were made for a series that would need to continue indefinitely.

A reader from Reading read *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus: A novel about a female chemist unceremoniously removed from a science laboratory who then works as a cooking show host. Set in the 1960s, the story explores unequal treatment and abuse of women as Elizabeth Zott is a character with...
insights and ideas ahead of her time. We read about her work and personal relationships as she navigates life and guides others.

A reader from Blackstone read *Bridgerton: The Duke and I* by Julia Quinn: A great romance, excited to finally watch the series to compare!

A reader from SANDISFIELD read *Silkworm* by Robert Galbraith: Great protagonist! Feel like I am in an English pub sharing a pint. Mysteries are interesting and not straight forward. Bit twisty.

A reader from Boston read *Written in My Own Heart's Blood* by Diana Gabaldon: A long one but I enjoyed it.

A reader from Holyoke read *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd: I really had to push myself through the first half of this book (the writing was good, but the characters hadn't caught my attention yet). The second half just flew by though! All the character-building the author did in the first half just comes together perfectly, and leads to a very satisfying (if not fully resolved) ending. A wonderful YA, coming-of-age novel!

A reader from Hanover read *Turtles All the Way Down* by John Green: My June Challenge book choice is "Turtles All the Way Down" by John Green which is the inspiration for the film streaming on Max. I have not seen the film but upon reading the book I feel that it would take great talent to portray what is going through Aza Holmes' mind as she navigates high school with a mental illness that causes anxiety rituals and a self loathing. What a beautiful book to understand how anxiety can take over your life even as your knowledgeable self battles with your negative feelings. Aza's illness affects not only herself but her best friend, Daisy, and finds kinship with an old friend, Davis Pickett, whose millionaire father has gone missing. Loss and love are entangled in this heart wrenching teen novel.

A reader from Braintree read *Watership Downs* by Richard Adams: "Watership Downs" by Richard Adams is my pick for the June Mass Challenge. This book was made into a movie in the '70's and a Netflix mini series in the last few years. While the author may have insisted the novel was only the published version of the story of rabbits Hazel and Fiver told to his daughters with very accurate nature details of rabbits, other animals, vegetation and landscape, each time I have read it I see an allegorical fable with so many nuances: duty, friendship, fate, conflict, survival, love. Hazel, who is not the quickest, strongest, bravest or cleverest rabbit sets out across Watership Down on a quest with a mixed band of unique and interesting characters because of Fiver's visions. While this is a story of rabbits actually acting as rabbits, it is also a developed novel about group dynamics, strengthening friendships, teamwork in overcoming challenges, community, myth and living.

A reader from Beverly read *The Silent Patient* by Alex Michaelides: I didn't love this, I think partially because I didn't like the narrator. This is being made into a movie and I could see it being more compelling as a film. However, there might be some visual cues to reveal the twist earlier in the story.

A reader from Hartland read *The Lord of the Rings* by J. R. R. Tolkien: The book is excellent and the movies were surprisingly good.

A reader from Essex read *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles: Beautifully written.

A reader from Gill read *Still Alice* by Lisa Genova: A well-researched novel about a woman with early onset Alzheimer's. Frighteningly, family members make decisions about her in front of her as if she is not there. But there is also beauty and abiding love.
A reader from Holyoke read *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest* by Ken Kesey: The movie this book is based upon closely followed the details in the book. However, one significant difference is that the movie is based on McMurphy’s perspective, and the book is from the perspective of the Native American who pretends he can’t hear and doesn’t speak throughout almost all of the book. Having read the book, now I’m eager to watch the movie again!

A reader from Lynnfield read *The Spy Who Came in From the Cold* by John Le Carre: I was surprised to learn that this book was published in the 1960s as it still feels culturally relevant and is referenced in many current shows and films. But I think it's a testament to the quality of the story and writing that it is still impacting the spy and thriller genre. I look forward to reading more of Le Carre's novels.

A reader from Hull read *Into the wild* by Jon Krakauer: It felt very different from the movie, made Chris seem more mentally unstable in the book I think and the movie was more a happy adventure movie from what I can remember but I am going to go back and watch it now! The book is through the eyes of Jon krakauer and his interpretations of why Chris did what he did.

A reader from Wellfleet read *Slow Horses* by Mick Herron: I haven't seen the series, though I hear it's quite good, and I don't know if I ever will. One streaming service is about all I can justify subscribing to at this point, especially when there's so much still to read. And also given the fact I've already given more money to Apple and Amazon than I ever want or wanted to. And, jeez, wouldn't it be nice to watch a baseball game again someday? But I digress. I liked this quite a lot. He's got a great sense of humor, Mick Herron does, and he also tells a cracking good story.

A reader from Dover read *twilight* by Stephenie Meyer: I was SHOCKED at how captivating it was. I thought it was going to be overrated (since I've heard that twilight is super popular), but honestly it's one of my favorite romance books I've ever read.

A reader from Braintree read *We Were the Lucky Onez* by Georgia Hunter: Incredible story of a family's during during WW2.

A reader from Westminster read *The Chocolate War* by Robert Cormier: This time I’m going to pick The Chocolate War by my uncle and godfather, Robert Cormier. Yes, that is the truth. My mother’s brother. In 1988 the movie The Chocolate War based on Robert Cormier’s young adult novel was made. I remember my uncle was somewhat disappointed with the results. However I did enjoy the book with its fast moving plot. I highly recommend the book.

A reader from Billerica read *The Last Thing He Told Me* by Laura Dave: I really enjoyed this book. I liked the pacing and was on the edge of my seat the entire time.

A reader from Worcester read *Bayard Rustin: Troubles I've Seen* by Jervis Anderson: Joined with the film "Rustin" to recognize a complex leader in American thought and social movements, most often identified as the central organizer of the 1963 Civil Rights March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

A reader from Amherst read *A Bear Called Paddington* by Micheal Bond: I’ve never read the books nor seen the movies, but I was in the mood for something light. These humorous misadventures have been a delightful treat.

A reader from Shelburne Falls read *Nomadland* by Jessica Bruder: I happily realized a journalistic book preceded the movie (which I still have yet to watch). As someone who loves alternative communities, I was surprised to find not only hope and celebration of a unique, resourceful lifestyle, but also fear and anger at the harsh choices forced by America's income inequality and ageism.

A reader from Chelmsford read *PUSH* by Sapphire: Excellent, but brutal.

A reader from Hudson read *she rides shotgun* by Jordan Harper: suspenseful and engrossing story about a girl who has to learn to survive while criminals are chasing her and her father.

A reader from Easthampton read *the color purple* by Alice Walker: An amazing and inspiring story! So much richer, deeper and more nuanced than the movies!

A reader from Orleans read *Arthur* by Mikael Lindnord: Wonderful read.

A reader from Danvers read *Romancing Mister Bridgerton* by Julia Quinn: This book was good. It matched very closely to the season that just aired on Netflix. There were some big changes such as timing of events, but overall it is interesting how closely the books held to the series.

A reader from Beverly Hills read *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens: Fascinating coming of age book about a young girl abandoned by those who should be caring for her and her struggles to become the person she was meant to be. Her life is further complicated when she is accused of murdering the town golden boy.

A reader from Westport read *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson: Really fun adventure!

A reader from Danville read *the Body* by Stephen King: I absolutely ADORE Stand By Me so I was very interested to read the source material *The Body*. I really enjoyed this book and honestly appreciated the fairly close adaption of the written text to the screen. While there are some obvious shifts, the essence of the novel is captured wholly. Set in 1960, Gordie Lachance, the main protagonist, is reflecting on his life at 12 years old and the relationships he has. The author does a nice job at drawing the reader in and allowing the story, as well as the maturity of the characters, to unfold. That being said, I'm not sure if I would have loved the story as much if I had grown up on the movie. I found that seeing it first only enhanced my appreciation whereas a friend of mine read it first and couldn't get past some of the writing.

A reader from Brooklyn read *Call Me By Your Name* by André Aciman: Interesting narration in the way it drives the plot forward (it's like a memory play...but a novel?). I hadn't seen the movie since it was released in 2017, so it was like re-discovering the characters.

A reader from Scituate read *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald: June's challenge was for a book that inspired a film or television series. I chose to re-read Gatsby after attending the ART's performance this month of the story. This book has been performed again and again over the almost 100 years since its first publication because it focuses on human issues that haven't changed. Fitzgerald is still relevant and his work is still challenging our thoughts.

A reader from Amherst read *Follow the Rabbit Proof Fence* by Doris Pilkington/Nugi Garimara: This is a sad tale of exploitation, cultural destruction, abduction of children. But these three girls escape, two get back to their families, but one does not. Harrowing tale of survival and strength of these children. Gives a good history of the aboriginal society, the colonists, and so on. Very good read, but at the same time, it's another iteration of powerful peoples exploiting and destroying other cultures.

A reader from Dracut read *Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn: This book starts off casually and then it hits all the twists and turns. Little pieces from chapters before all start fitting together. Kept the reader guessing.
A reader from Lexington read *The Pillars of the Earth* by Ken Follett: The book is a frequent recommendation on a Historical Fiction FaceBook group I follow. I decided to try it although a little wary of its length. I really enjoyed the book. More melodrama than history, but there was enough history for me to enjoy. Never saw the movie made from this, but look forward to seeing the choices made in bringing the book to screen.

A reader from Melrose read *The Three-Body Problem* by Cixin Liu: Excellent, engrossing, and inventive hard science fiction. 5/5

A reader from Derry read *The Body* by Stephen King: Stephen King's Novella "The Body" originally published as part of a collection in "Different Seasons" is the bases for the iconic movie "Stand By Me". Like the movie the Body is a coming of age movie in which a group of 12 year old boys living in Castle Rock Maine go on a journey to find the body of a missing teenager Ray Bower. Along the way the boys have their share of adventures, laughs and torments from their place in life by the hand dealt them. Not wanting to spoil anything but reader be ware this book differs with a far different ending than the movie. It is a wonderful read, just a different take than what fans of the movie will expect.

A reader from Bourne read *The Watchers* by A.M. Shine: A.M. Shine’s The Watchers is a horror story, which is along the lines of a Stephen King novel. Shine’s ability to create a sense of fear is one of the book’s greatest strengths. The forest, with its dark, oppressive presence, becomes a character in its own right, embodying the isolation and danger the characters encounter. If you like books that keep you on the edge of your seat for the entire book you may enjoy this as much as I did.

A reader from Boston read *Orange is the New Black* by Piper Kerman: Obviously this book is better known as one of Netflix’s first hit TV series. I still haven’t watched it, but reading this book certainly made me more excited about doing so! I really enjoyed this look into life in a women’s prison in the early 2000s.

A reader from Derry read *Mrs Fletcher* by Tom Perrotta: Tom Perrotta is the modern master of having his novels adapted to screens large and small. His novel "Mrs Fletcher" has been adapted into a limited run series on HBO now available on Max. The novel follows Mrs Fletcher, a divorced mother facing a mid life crisis as her only child leaves for freshman year away at college. Both are struggling to find themselves post divorce. Mr Fletcher has remarried and is struggling with his new family including an autistic child, that offers another division point between him and his first born child. The novel has the usual rapid moving change of character first person point of view Perrotta is known for, as well as the suburban life style of middle to upper middle class people that is tinted perfect with plenty of cracks when you look closer. Also a Perrotta calling card, there is plenty of serial tension and content. This is a book written for adults, intended for adults. So reader beware. I truly great read, that does make you think about the other person's perspective.

A reader from Wilmington read *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* by Suzanne Collins: Enjoyable book to watch the Rose of the villain of the Hunger Games.

A reader from LOWELL read *The Dark Is Rising* by Susan Cooper: Sort of sad that I never quite finished this series as an adolescent. For some reason I bailed out after the first chapter at least ten times. I missed out on a story I would have liked very much. Perhaps, it just wasn't my time.

A reader from Somerville read *Where’d You Go, Bernadette* by Maria Semple: I really enjoyed the letter/email format of this book. And ofc I’m a sucker for when readers find out we’re reading a book written by one of the characters. I haven’t actually seen the movie, but I’m very interested to see how they
translate this to the screen. Part of what makes the book interesting is that the letters provide insight into each character’s POV and hope they found a way to retain that aspect in the movie.

A reader from South Portland read *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy: When I read this book for the first time in high school English class, I remember falling in love with it. Fast forward fifteen years, my reading taste has changed and The Road is still a great read. Looking forward to watching the movie for the first time!


A reader from Melrose read *Erasure* by Percival Everett: The novel from which the movie American Fiction was adapted. I'm glad I saw the movie first, as that helped me flesh out some of the characters and emotions in the book.

A reader from East Longmeadow read *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley: The book I must reference is FRANKENSTEIN by Mary Shelley. Published over 200 years ago, this book has gained a permanent place in popular culture. From plays to films, and countless literary extrapolations, Mary Shelley’s nightmare-turned-novel has triggered an intertextual tsunami that shows no sign of stopping. Frankenstein is often referred to as the first example of science fiction; modern authors such as Dean Koontz have kept that vibe alive. My inclination is to appreciate the novel outside of that lens; Shelley’s novel evokes profound questions about the responsibilities of parents to their children, and scientists to the greater world. Within these last two themes, Shelley makes it clear that Victor Frankenstein is the monster - abandoning the creature he brought into the world, letting him bumble and fumble about in the world with zero guidance. Innocent people lose their lives as a consequence; an unsettling prophecy when you consider the hundreds of thousands of victims in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Victor Frankenstein’s myopic invention is, prophetically, an apt metaphor for mankind’s recklessness in pursuing, and unleashing, technologies powerful enough to extinguish all that we cherish, from the A bomb to AI. The most famous re-birth of Mary Shelley’s classic is seen in James Whale’s film, yet it came with a twist that would permanently distort Shelley’s original message. Intent on enhancing the shock factor, Whale elected to represent Frankenstein’s creature in a lurid technicolor green. I expect Shelley would wince at seeing her creature recast as a monster but by 1994, when a bare-chested Kenneth Branagh filled the big screen in his portrayal of Dr. Frankenstein, she would have accepted modern sensibilities. Afterall, modern sensibilities include feminist retellings such as The Dark Descent of Elizabeth Frankenstein, by Kiersten White. According to New York Times bestselling author Megan Shepherd, Kiersten White breathed fresh life into a much-loved classic. And then there’s Unwieldy Creatures - a biracial, queer, and nonbinary retelling by Addie Tsai that returns to the idea of family roles and responsibilities. In other words, Frankenstein is still alive.

A reader from Roslindale read *Murder at the Vicarage* by Agatha Christie: I originally watched the ITV Marple shows version and really liked it so I used this as an excuse to read the original. It’s very much an Agatha Christie, so if you love her work like I do, you’ll like it too. Only difference is the end to the ITV show has a lot more melancholy, which I actually preferred.

A reader from Northampton read *Fleishman is in Trouble* by Taffy Brodesser-Akner: I’m so glad I’m not a rich New Yorker.

exploration. His latest case brings himself into twists and turns of conspiracy, mobsters and politicians. A new twist on old ground. Check the cliches at the door, this book goes in direction not expected.

A reader from Seekonk read *Heartstopper* by Alice Oseman: I watched the series before I read the graphic novels. I appreciated the subtle differences and similarities between the two. The novels gave me a deeper appreciation for the series.

A reader from Northampton read *I Am Not Okay With This* by Charles Forsman: Damn. I can't imagine how they made this into a series, but I guess I'll find out.

A reader from Braintree read *Dune* by Frank Herbert: I had somewhat low expectations of Dune and was anticipating a slow read. It felt more contemporary than a book from the 1960s. While I appreciated the unexpected twists and turns, there didn’t seem to be much of a climax or resolution. The book left me wanting, however I look forward to seeing the movie!

A reader from Melrose read *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng: I had trouble getting into the book, but once I was able to focus on the book, found it to be a fast read. The ending had many unresolved stories which I did not like.

A reader from Northampton read *The Neverending Story* by Michael Ende: the movie is not quite as good!

A reader from Somerville read *Nimona* by Noelle Stevenson: I was excited to re-read this now that there is a Netflix adaptation! Still as good as I remember it, although I guess I couldn’t remember too much of it since according to my goodreads I last read it pre-pandemic! I’m excited to see how it compares to the adaptation, as it isn’t often they turn graphic novels into films!

A reader from AUBURN read *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown: This was a terrific book and a fantastic movie. A real Cinderella story - reading and cheering all the way. What a wonderful group of people, the coaches, the crew, the supporters making the fairytale come true against all odds, reason, and unsupportive politicians. Hope springs eternal.

A reader from Westborough read *Good Omens* by Neil Gaimon: TV show better than the book I think.

A reader from Scituate read *the boys in the boat* by daniel james brown: Super-interesting book about the young men, their coaches and the boat builder involved in the winning rowing gold against the Nazis in the Olympics. A very detailed book.

A reader from Franklin read *Lady in the Lake* by Laura Lippman: Set in the mid 1960's in Baltimore. An aspiring newspaper reporter finds herself in the midst of the systemic issue of white supremacy. She finds out first-hand how tragic circumstances are handled by the police and the media.

A reader from Weymouth read *Queen Charlotte* by Julia Quinn: It was really interesting to see how much closer this book and TV storylines matched up compared to the other Bridgerton stories. It also helped give more insight into the main relationship because of the order in which things happened and there being more inner dialogue.

A reader from Hudson read *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel: I knew nothing about the movie when I read the book. I knew the book had been a prizewinning bestseller, but it was even more complex and compelling than I had expected. I couldn't imagine how it could have been translated to film, but I've just seen a trailer online and the movie looks astonishing - I'll certainly watch the DVD.
A reader from Springfield read *A Game of Thrones* by George R R Martin: I watched the series, but am surprised at how true HBO stayed to the first book!

A reader from South Hadley read *Gone With the Wind* by Margaret Mitchell: I almost didn't finish this one. I'd get tired of Scarlett and put the book aside for a day or two. And I kinda had to hold my nose and keep on reading because of the overt racism. I did finish it just under the wire, but not something I'll ever read again.

A reader from Wrentham read *The Duke & I* by Julia Quinn: I couldn't help but picture the cast of the Netflix series as I was reading the novel. I was impressed how much of the show / book align.

A reader from Lynnfield read *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle: I liked Meg and Calvin the best, as well as the overall nature of the planet Camazotz. I'm glad I read it now, as it has been on my radar for a while to read as an adult, but if I had read it as a kid I would not have liked it or understood it. The problem is, it doesn't do much for me as an adult. The pacing is slow, some important questions were left unanswered, and I just didn't like most of the characters. It doesn't quite work well as a book. 2.5 stars, rounded up to 3.

A reader from Brookline read *Percy Jackson & the Olympians* by Rick Riordan: Advice I always received when reading this book was that it’s a great thing to read after Harry Potter. And right that was! After reading a couple of heavy books, this middle grade level book was perfect. Looking forward to watching the Disney channel plus tv show adaptation!

A reader from East Bridgewater read *Long Island* by Colm Toibin: A sequel to Brooklyn, this book continues the story of Eillis Lacey, 20 years after she left Ireland for good and settled on Long Island with her husband, Tony, and his family. Just as she did previously, when faced with a crisis Eillis flees to Ireland, looking to understand her situation and find answers on how to move forward with her life. The story is compelling but also quiet, with much left unsaid but nevertheless completely understood. I found myself unsure of who to root for, frustrated by circumstances beyond the control of the characters, and fascinated by an utterly brilliant plot twist that results in a very ambiguous ending.

A reader from Plymouth read *We Were Liars* by E. Lockhart: This book made me realize that I enjoy psychological thrillers.

A reader from East Sandwich read *Evil Under the Sun* by Agatha Christie: In typical Agatha Christie fashion, she has you guessing until the end. It was hard to read outdated sentimentality toward women, but at the same time, knowing that the author herself was a woman and profited from her writing during her own life is something to celebrated. I am looking forward to seeing it acted out in the movie form (1980’s) which I found I can watch for free on Prime.

A reader from Newton read *Eragon* by Christopher Paolini: Great series!

A reader from Northfield read *altered carbon* by richard morgan: This was one of the very few times that i enjoyed the netflix series more than the book. Not to say that the book wasnt great it was, but i think the changes they made for the show really did it justice.

A reader from Sharon read *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* by Suzanne Collins: This book is not as good as The Hunger Games trilogy with a slow-moving storyline especially in the beginning.

A reader from Winchester read *The Boys In The Boat* by Daniel James Brown: This book grew on me. The first few chapters left me uninterested, but as the story continued, it became a page turner. The author
had a knack for describing the races in such detail that I felt like I was witnessing them. I also learned a lot about Nazi Germany’s objective in staging the games. I would recommend this one.

A reader from Belchertown read *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret* by Judy Blume: This is a classic for a reason! Delightful to reread after many, many years.

A reader from Tyngsboro read *Crazy Rich Asians* by Kevin Kwan: I saw the movie first, Like many books turned into movies, there are quite a few differences from the book. I realize that it must be condensed in order to fit in a certain time frame. This story is no exception. Having seen the movie first, there are some things I think were done much better in the movie. However, the book is very good too. I really like all the other storylines that the book explored that were omitted from the movie. Especially the one about Astrid. It was very different in the book. I’m glad I read the book and I looking forward to reading the sequel.

A reader from Rockland read *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood: I re-read this after 20 years and it is different from what I remembered. I have also watched the TV show in the interim and I wonder how much that affected my memory of the book.

A reader from Salem read *Coraline* by Neil Gaiman: It was shorter than expected. I chose the version illustrated by Chris Ridell, but now I want to check out Dave McKean’s version too. I haven’t watched the movie for years, so the plot was familiar but not so much as to be predictable. Made me want to revisit Neil’s *Graveyard Book*.

A reader from Attleboro read *Firefly Lane* by Kristin Hannah: This book was great! I wish I would have read the book before watching the Netflix series, but it was different enough to keep me turning the pages. I enjoyed how the author sectioned the book into seasons of time as it was really reflective and helpful to understand what the characters were going through.

A reader from Somerville read *The Perfect Storm* by Sebastian Junger: This book is an amazing work of journalism intense enough to give you nightmares. I find it hard to imagine that Hollywood could have captured some of the book’s best aspects - but now I have to watch the film.

A reader from Worcester read *the duke and i* by julia quinn: This is the book that inspired Bridgerton. It is quite different from the show, and a little hard to get through knowing the background of the show first.

A reader from Wilmington read *The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown: I struggled to get into the book at first but once I got into it, it held my attention. I see why it draws people to it, but it didn’t really draw me. It was intriguing and different from other books I’ve read.

A reader from Reading read *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood: Somehow I have made it 37 years and an English degree without reading this and I am so glad I finally did!

A reader from Spencer read *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan: A troubled pre-teen boy discovers a hidden world of monsters and gods, where is he destined to be a great hero. He embarks on a dangerous cross-country quest with his friends to clear his name and save the world. However, his quest foreshadows the rise of an ancient evil.

A reader from Sharon read *practical magic* by alice Hoffman: A very easy read and an enjoyable beach read. I think it was adapted well for the film even though the book, of course, develops the characters more.
A reader from Salem read Where The Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens: I have been wanting to read this for a while and I was hoping to be able to fit it into one of the monthly prompts for this year, and was so glad it worked perfectly with June’s challenge! This is a really interesting mystery, and written in a unique and somewhat unsettling voice that really speaks to the strange neglectful upbringing and off-kilter life experiences of the main character. I love the two different time periods the book flashes between chapters, and can’t wait to watch the movie now!

A reader from Chelsea read red, white and royal blue by Casey McQuiston: The book was really fun as long as you didn’t think about the reality of the actual White House. The movie didn’t come close to doing it justice, they cut out his sister and she was a fav character!!!

A reader from Blandford read Chocolat by Joanne Harris: I picked up this delight from a little free library in Cape Vincent NY last year in the hopes that when I finally got a chance to read it, it would not disappoint me like Bridget Jones’ Diary did. I had recently read that and was amazed that a movie adaptation could far out shine the book it was based upon. (Great movie, horrible book.) Chocolat, thankfully, did not disappoint. It was extremely well written, inventive, jarring, delightful. (And the movie is still pretty good too.)

A reader from Franklin read James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl: It was an interesting read because it was not what I expected. I enjoyed the fantastical elements of the book and the story line. I'm glad there was an uplifting ending since it had a very sad beginning with the depiction of James' life.

A reader from Hamilton read The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead: This novel was beautifully written and lends itself to an adaptation to the screen. With chapters that start and stop in the same place but through different characters’ points of view, Whitehead's framing offers a unique device for timing/the screen. The exploration of liminal spaces of internal and external journeys is masterfully done. There is a magical realism-like quality to the underground railroad where actual tunnels and trains are part of the journey that is physical, emotional, and haunting. I look forward to seeing the miniseries on Amazon Prime.

A reader from Charlton read everything everything by nicola yoon: Really not my taste in a book. But a good quick read.

A reader from Methuen read Killers of the Flower Moon by David Grann: David Grann certainly did his research to write this story that is about murders of the Osage tribal members and the beginnings of our FBI. I have not seen the movie that was based on the book - hope to one day. The unfortunate Osage Reign of Terror that was reported to happen from the spring of 1921 to January of 1926 actually began in 1918 and long after William Hale was arrested for the crime. Why? The Osage were promised one thing but forced into another being moved to Oklahoma. Then oil was discovered under the land, and the Osage became rich. They were given headrights to the oil on their respective bits of land. Then there began a cruel plan to murder Osage members for their headrights; many were poisoned gradually and others shot. Tom White was an agent working under J. Edgar Hoover and was sent to Oklahoma to resolve the issues. White and his men worked hard to arrest and prosecute the killers and those behind them. (It seems that Mr. Hoover did take considerable credit for the hard and often dangerous work Tom White and others did.) Once again I am reminded of how our Indigenous ancestors were mistreated. This book is not a fast read but is a good one!

A reader from Maynard read Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens: Kya's life in the swamp made me realize how much I take for granted.
A reader from Worcester read *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens: I liked the book and thought the movie followed the book. The book was based on a true story about a girl, Kya, who raised herself in the Marshlands of N. Carolina. She was shunned by most of the town, called "Marsh girl" and became a naturalist. Contraversary about book as some believe it promotes racial stereotypes but others believe the book is written true to the times.

A reader from Watertown read *Sweet Tooth Volume 1* by Jeff Lemire: After watching the TV series, finally getting around to reading the graphic novel series.

A reader from Dracut read *The House of Hidden Meanings* by RuPaul: I loved this book. It felt like a brighter side of RuPaul's story. I felt like I was there, growing up with him. I am so happy he never gave up on life. I don't want to give up either. I had the audio book. His face is soft and trustworthy. I would listen to the audio recording when visiting to and from my boyfriend's home in Fitschburg. I am from Lowell. One hour rides with RuPaul...I looked forward to every chapter.

A reader from Holden read *All the Light We Cannot See* by Doerr, Anthony: I read All the Light We Cannot See this month by Anthony Doerr which won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 2015 and is a new limited series on Netflix. I really enjoyed this book about the Nazi occupation of France during WWII and the lives of the two main characters, Marie-Laure and Werner who were children at the beginning of the war. Their stories are told in parallel throughout the book until they eventually meet. The story is full of tenderness and beauty but also brutality and the starkness which is present during times of war. I highly recommend it!

A reader from North Bethesda read *When He Was Wicked* by Julia Quinn: Part of the Bridgerton book series that inspired the tv series, this is by far my favorite of the books. It is both hot and tender and made me cry so hard!

A reader from Williamstown read *We Were the Lucky Ones* by Georgia Hunter: I started watching the miniseries on Hulu but then realized I should read the book first. "We Were the Lucky Ones" is a loosely fictionalized account of the author's family and their experiences in Poland during World War II. The story is told from many different points of view so we get to know a lot of the characters, and historical information about the war is included as well -- very helpful for context. I'm now looking forward to watching the miniseries!

A reader from Wilmington read *The Handmaids Tale* by Margaret Atwood: I enjoyed this very much and looking forward to reading the sequel. I find the TV series to be quite good as well.

A reader from Northampton read *The Fall of the House of Usher* by Edgar Allan Poe: Meh.

A reader from Somerville read *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* by Agatha Christie: This first book in the Hercule Poirot series was a lot of fun, full of twists and turns, and ultimately very satisfying. I really enjoyed the audio version read by Edward Beesley.

A reader from Chelsea read *The Mammy* by O'Carroll, Brendan: Sweet and funny account of growing up in a big Irish family and the hardships that went along with it.


A reader from Rockland read *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles: Count Rostov and his band of interesting characters provide a unique look at the human condition in trying circumstances.
A reader from Foxboro read *Twilight* by Stephenie Meyer: Forgot how different the book and movie are. Enjoyed reading the book again.

A reader from TEWKSBURY read *Where'd you go Bernadette?* by Maria Semple: I didn't think I would like it at first but it caught my attention towards the middle.

A reader from Wakefield read *Big Little Lies* by Lianne Moriarty: I'd read this one before and also watched the HBO series. When I went back and read it again this month I had been getting confused between what had happened in the series vs the book. So many things that were in the series that seemed so prominent, I really thought they were in the book. So now that I’ve finished the book again I’m watching the series over again.

A reader from New York read *Outlander* by Diana Gabaldon: I really loved this book!! I tried it a few years ago and I didn't get into it, but this time I did! Can't wait to watch the series.

A reader from Fitchburg read *Sarah Plain and Tall* by Patricia MacLachlan: This is such a calming book to read with lovely descriptions. I think the pace is perfect. The chapters almost read as vignettes. This book doesn’t even need a movie as you can visualize so much of what the author writes. It’s a beautifully written story.

A reader from Pepperell read *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* by Holly Jackson: A Good Girl’s Guide to Murder was a page-turner with an engaging plot full of twists that kept me guessing about the murderer’s identity and eager to uncover the truth behind Andie Bell and Sal Singh’s disappearance. Despite the book being somewhat unrealistic at times, Pip’s (main character/detective) cleverness and determination to find an explanation alongside Ravi (Sal’s brother) make the book worth reading. I am so excited to read the rest of the series and watch the show that just came out! I highly recommend A Good Girl’s Guide to Murder, I absolutely loved it (definitely one of my all-time favorite books)!

A reader from Melrose read *The Wayward Daughter: A Kathmandu Story* by Shradha Ghale: A beautiful story of growing up as an indigenous person against the grain of the strong normative Nepali-ness propagated by the state and powers that be.

A reader from Ludlow read *Memoirs of a Geisha* by Arthur Golden: Memoirs of a Geisha was the book I selected to read for the month of June. The book took the entire month to complete. Overall, I enjoyed the book, yet at times I found it difficult to keep my attention. It was recommended by a friend, otherwise, I would have never selected it.

A reader from Montague read *The Postman* by Antonio Skármeta: I picked up this slim novel at a used bookstore. I remembered loving the 1994 Italian film "Il Postino: The Postman." As soon as I began reading, I realized there were many differences. The novel takes place in Chile during the 1973 Chilean Coup d'état. The postman himself is a 17yr old boy who is besotted with a 17yr old girl. The film takes place in Italy in the 1950s while Pablo Neruda was living in exile. The postman in the film is excruciatingly shy, portrayed endearingly by Massimo Troisi. He is besotted by the beautiful Maria Grazia Cucinotta who works in her aunt's café. Both stories are fictional accounts of Neruda's relationship with the man who delivers his mail. I recommend this quick read, followed by a revisit to the film.

A reader from Everett read *The Giver* by Lois Lowry: Devastating.

A reader from Worcester read *The Hours* by Michael Cunningham: "The Hours" is one of my most re-read novels. It's always been a favorite to fall back on. The non-linear storytelling along with the stream
of consciousness strengthens the characters and their relationships and makes even the most mundane things feel important. It's easy to attach to the characters and to feel deeply along with them.

A reader from Brimfield read *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien: A story about adventure and courage that evokes many kinds of feelings throughout.

A reader from Northboro read *The Field Guide The Spiderwick Chronicles #1* by Holly Black, Tony DiTerlizzi: I read these when I was younger and it was nice to reread the book and dive into the world again. They are a very fun faerie middle grade.

A reader from Beverley read *The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics* by Daniel James Brown: This was slower than I expected it to be. I thought the focus would be a mixture of all the boys on the boat and their life stories, not mostly on one person and a few of the coaches and a little snippet of a couple of the other guys late in the book. Inspiring but also a little dull.

A reader from Leominster read *Robinne Lee* by *The Idea of You*: This one wasn’t what I thought it would be. I didn’t feel the chemistry between the characters and it fell flat especially at the ending. I think this may be one case where the movie was better.

A reader from Spencer read *The Never Game* by Jeffery Deaver: I enjoyed first season the series that the book is based on, but the book was even better. Enjoyable characters, suspense and a mystery to solve.

A reader from Weston read *Diary of a Whimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules* by Jeff Kinney: There were funny parts in the book. Like when Rodrick was practicing band and teenagers were playing their rock music so Rodrick's dad started playing classical music so they would leave. I loved how it was a funny book.

A reader from Weston read *Pippi Longstocking* by Astrid Lindgren: I liked that Pippi was able to take care of herself when her mom died. It was great that she made friends so now she won't be alone anymore. It's a great book, I think you'll enjoy it.

A reader from Hampden read *Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood: The book was awesome and the mini series is terrifying!!

A reader from Ludlow read *Wicked* by Gregory Maguire: The story of the fully fleshed out West Witch was wonderful. Elphaba's struggles as a little girl, her entrance into the prestigious circle of Oz and her choice to protect the Animals are imaginative and believable. She is smart and compassionate. She finally welcomes being declared a witch. I found myself feeling pity for her. I have never seen this on stage or screen. I will soon.

A reader from Sutton read *The Good Lord Bird* by James McBride: I enjoyed McBride’s reimagining of the events leading up to the raid at Harpers Ferry, particularly John Brown’s activities as viewed through the eyes of Onion, the 12-year-old boy. The subject matter of the book was not of particular interest to me, but I trusted my friend’s enthusiastic recommendation and am glad that I did. It hooked me instantly and forever on James McBride’s writing.

A reader from Rochester read *The Light Between Oceans* by M.L. Stedman: Loved the book. Emotional depth, the kind of book that keeps you thinking long after you’ve finished reading it.

A reader from Plainville read *It* by Stephen King: I've read 5 or 6 Stephen King books and it is no surprise that this book is lauded in his top 5. I now understand why King is revered as the master of horror, however the horror that he write about through this book is so much more than superficial horror that
Hollywood capitalizes on in the movie adaptations. Pennywise the clown is a terrifying figure and is a surefire way to draw big box office dollars when adapted to the movie screen, but the real horror of the book is what 'It' represents in real life. King's 'It' is not just the manifestations of common horror movie fears people have like werewolves, mummies, killer clowns, or any of the other manifestations. 'It' is the evil that can be manipulated in peoples hearts and cause them to do the worst things imaginable. In the book, the kids who form The Losers Club are those attempting to stand up to evil and prove that not everyone is corruptible. Henry Bowers is prayed on by It because of his terrible upbringing by a psychotic, racist father. He becomes a racist, psychotic murdering son and due to his inherited mental illness succumbs to will of the 'the voice' in his head, which is It. Beverly Marsh has a father who is a drunk, physical and sexual abuser; Beverly has to overcome her childhood upbringing as well by freeing herself from a pattern of abusive men. Every character has something affecting their childhood upbringing that they have to overcome when challenging 'It' and childhood is framed as the lens through which horrific, unimaginable things can be somehow be endured and absorbed as part of person's understanding of reality, whereas most adults think they understand the world until something horrific or unimaginable changes that paradigm of thought. This book is a masterpiece dissection of what is wrong with so much of humanity.

A reader from Springfield read Cuando Era Puertorriqueña by esmeralda santiago: Biography of a young girl and finding her identity.

A reader from Springfield read One of us is lying by Karen M. Mcmanus: Mystery and romance is involved in this book.

A reader from Oxford read sherlock holmes by sir arthur conan doyle: I was reading this book for my book club figured kill 2 birds with one stone. Not my Type of book I enjoy. Had trouble getting through it. Never saw the movie or television series

A reader from CHICOPEE read All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr: I definitely liked the Netflix series more than the book. It was a good book but it went on for too long and I didn't care for the ending in the book. The series had a better ending and it was shorter.

A reader from Charlton read The Three-Body Problem by Cixin Liu: This is a book that has been turned into a Netflix series. The premise of the book is really interesting, however I think the story does not progress. A lot of things are happening in this book and a lot of world building is taking place, but there is not a lot devoted to why things are happening or what motivates the characters to do what they do.

A reader from Amherst read the alienist by caleb carr: Great thriller set in 1896 New York with three sleuths chasing a serial killer before he strikes again. Good historical setting!

A reader from METHUEN read 2001 A SPACE ODYSSEY by ARTHUR C CLARKE: It is an excellent book about the voyages of space. It spawned two more books and 1 additional movie. 2010: The Year we made contact.

A reader from Hull read The Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown: Great read .I am a tower and Brown captured the essence of that and also reeled me in with the character development. I liked the book more than the movie. I’ve recommended the book to many friends and they loved it.

A reader from East Bridgewater read The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan: This is a book I have long wanted to read and I took the opportunity in June to also view the film. I chiefly listened to this as an audio book. Unfortunately, the multiple 1-person narratives were a bit confusing, and I wasn’t always able to determine which mother related to which daughter’s story and vice versa. And, since the book also
jumped back and forth in time, and my phone app sometimes jumped forward or back and I became frustrated with trying to find where I’d left off despite adding numerous bookmarks. Nevertheless, the stories, especially in China, were very diverse and engaging, as each female character found a way to overcome their circumstances and ‘find their own voice.’ The frustration each of these mothers felt with each of their daughters’ paths in America was also natural, perhaps, but, in some cases, heartbreaking. As was the relationships among these same daughters as adults. I also wonder what sort of narrative would be created by the next generation. Since the book is over 30 years old, and so much has changed in both countries, I’d be interested in what the next generation would be doing and if/how they would resolve their cultural heritage. I’m not sure I would recommend this book to everyone, but I did find it compelling and full of rich detail.

A reader from Hudson read *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker: I had seen the movie, but I hadn't read the book, which is out of order for me! It was really wonderful.

A reader from Weymouth read *Storm: Dawn of a Goddess* by Tiffany D. Jackson: I twisted this prompt a little bit, and read a prequel to the X-Men series. This is an origin story for Storm, and it is fantastic! It's super fast-paced and full of action, while also being full of heart and great character development.

A reader from Springfield read *Fight Club* by Chuck Palahniuk: Mr. Palahniuk is a great story teller. Having seen Fight Club then reading the book helped with imagining the characters. I would say it enhanced the reading experience. The movie closely resembled the book. I actually preferred the book and its nuances. Great read.

A reader from Tewksbury read *Black Cake* by Charmaine Wilkerson: Wonderful book.

A reader from Berkley read *Death on the Nile* by Agatha Christie: Great to read the author's ending. Most movies made have changed the ending slightly.

A reader from Hampden read *Rebecca* by Daphne Du Maurier: Written in 1938 it's a psychological thriller and mystery. A young woman marries a man whose first wife has died. The deceased wife’s influence over events even after her death.

A reader from Turners Falls read *Gods of Guilt* by Michael Connelly: I feel in love with this series and movie just had to read this next one in anticipation of the next season coming to Netflix.

A reader from Medford read *The Lost Flowers of Alice Hart* by Holly Ringland: This engrossing multi-generational family saga set in Australia held my interest and taught me a lot about the unusual flora and landscaped of that continent.

A reader from Wakefield read *In the Heart of the Sea* by Nathaniel Philbrick: Awesome, great descriptive writing.