

Library Lines

By Laura Stoll, Assistant to the Director/Office Manager

You won't be surprised to hear that the staff at the Kirkland Town Library loves books. We all have our own favorite genres and formats and, as we have worked together, we get to know each others' preferences. It's fun to share books and audiobooks that we've enjoyed.

On Mondays, we've been posting Staff Picks on our social media. Staff members take turns sharing books they have recently enjoyed and we make them into fun and colorful graphics. Here are some recent staff picks that you might enjoy.

Anne recommends "Long Way Down" by Jason Reynolds. Written in verse, the story is about a young man at a crossroads. The Kirkland Town Library also has a new graphic novel version which pairs Reynolds' words with illustrations by Danica Novgorodoff. The book is shelved with the young adult titles but is appropriate for both teen and adult readers.

Anne isn't the only staff person to recommend books from the young adult shelves. Ruth liked "They Went Left" by Monica Hesse which is a YA title with adult appeal. Eighteen year old Zofia has been liberated from a concentration camp at the end of World War II. Her body has healed but her memory is fragmented, and she's determined to put together the pieces to find out what's become of her home and family.

"The Way I Used To Be" by Amber Smith is one of Chelsea's picks. After being raped, Eden's world is completely transformed. As she learns the power of survival, her deep trauma is revealed as she sheds the person she used to be.

Jennifer read and enjoyed the book "The Language of Fire" by Stephanie Hemphill. It is a retelling of the Joan of Arc story from Joan's perspective written in verse. Even though we all know how the story ends, the journey to that end was fascinating and moving.

Nina likes historical fiction and recommends "The Black Swan of Paris" by Karen Robards. Nina reports that Robards does a nice job of creating an interesting storyline against the often-told backdrop of Occupied Paris. Her writing offers some fresh perspective on the myriad effects of living under domination.

Amy recently read the novel "Migrations" by Charlotte McConaghy. It tells the story of a young woman, Franny, who is determined to follow what may well be that last migration of the arctic tern. Although it doesn't read as futuristic or science fiction, it's set at a time - perhaps not so far in the future - in which there are essentially no fish in the ocean, many species are extinct, and scientists are going to extreme lengths to preserve wildlife. The story of her journey with the terns is interwoven with Franny's search for herself, for the keys to her traumatic past, and for any future the world may hold for her.

Yvonne's interest in genealogy led her to read "Before and After" by Judy Christie and Lisa Wingate. This non-fiction book tells the true story of the victims of a notorious adoption scandal. From the 1920s to 1950, Georgia Tann ran a black-market baby business at the Tennessee Children's Home Society in Memphis. Wingate and Christie both have backgrounds in journalism and have written novels so the book is both compelling and well-written.

When it comes to listening to an audiobook, the narrator can make or break the experience. Aileen recommends "The Body" by Bill Bryson, which is narrated by the author himself. She said his voice flows naturally and, because he wrote the book, he's an expert on

the text. The book is full of facts and stories about the amazing functions of the human body and its ability to heal itself.

As for me, I was intrigued by the title of Michele Harper's memoir "The Beauty in Breaking." In the preface, she describes the Japanese art of kintsugi where broken pottery is put back together with gold, demonstrating how the imperfections in a piece of art can add to its beauty and create strength. In her book, Harper details some breaking points in her own life and how she used them as starting points for new relationships and career paths. In these difficult times, it was reassuring to know that although the world might feel disconnected and broken, things can be rebuilt to be even more beautiful than they were before.

Check our Instagram and Facebook pages on Mondays for more staff picks.