

Volume 2, Issue 6

## SYOSSET PUBLIC LIBRARY

November 2013

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*To register your book club and receive this newsletter straight into your inbox, contact any Readers' Services Librarian*

### Upcoming Events

#### For Readers

**Evening Book Club** will discuss *Me Before You* by Jojo Moyes on Tuesday, Nov 12, 2013 at 7:30 PM.

**Afternoon Book Club** will discuss *The Aviator's Wife* by Melanie Benjamin on Tuesday, Nov 26, 2013 at 1:30 PM.

If your Book Club would like to recommend a book to our readers, please send us an email at **Readersservices@syossetlibrary.org** and we will share it in a future newsletter.

[www.syossetlibrary.org](http://www.syossetlibrary.org)

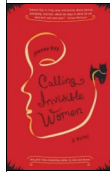


225 South Oyster Bay Road, Syosset NY 11791

## The Book Club Insider Monthly Newsletter

### Book Club Picks from the Title Swap with Librarians

On Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> the Readers' Services Department hosted our quarterly *Title Swap with Librarians*. We were thrilled to have such a wonderful, lively group of patrons at the event. Between the Librarians and our patrons, forty-four titles were suggested. A bibliography of the recommended titles has been compiled and can be found at the Readers' Services Desk, and soon to be our website: <http://www.syossetlibrary.org/books/events-for-readers/title-swap>. Our next *Title Swap* will be held on Tuesday, December 10 at 1:30 PM. We hope you can join us. In the meantime, the following is a sampling of books discussed that would make great Book Club reads.



#### *Calling Invisible Women* by Jeanne Ray

"Feeling unattractive and unappreciated as she enters her fifties, wife and mother Clover wakes up one morning and discovers that she has actually become invisible, a condition that goes unnoticed by her family."

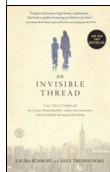


#### *The Center of Everything* by Laura Moriarty

"Fending for herself in the wake of a chronically unemployed, dysfunctional mother, ten-year-old Evelyn Bucknow experiences feelings of confinement in their small Midwestern town and suffers the heartache of a first love."

#### *In the Kingdom of Men* by Kim Barnes

"A young woman from the American South finds herself in the strange world of the Middle East after she marries an oil driller."



#### *An Invisible Thread* by Laura Schroff

"This inspirational true story of a friendship that has spanned three decades recounts how the author, a harried sales executive, befriended an 11-year-old panhandler, changing both of their lives forever."

#### *Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline

"Close to aging out of the foster care system, Molly Ayer takes a position helping an elderly woman named Vivian and discovers that they are more alike than different as she helps Vivian solve a mystery from her past."

#### *The Language of Flowers* by Vanessa Diffenbaugh

"Discovering the symbolic meanings of flowers while languishing in the foster-care system, eighteen-year-old Victoria is hired by a florist when her talent for helping others is discovered, a situation that leads her to confront a painful secret from her past."



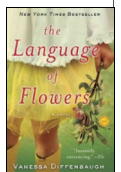
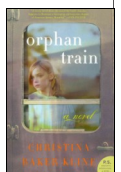
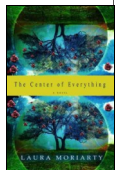
#### *The Tender Bar* by J.R. Moehringer

"In a memoir of growing up with a single mother, the author describes how he received valuable life lessons and friendship from an assortment of characters at the neighborhood bar, who provided him with a kind of fatherhood by committee."

All of the above titles are available at the Library.

Summaries are provided by the publishers.

- Jackie Ranaldo, Head of Readers' Services



## Why Not a Short Story Collection?



The 2013 Nobel Prize for Literature was recently given to Canadian author Alice Munro. As Munro is a writer of short stories, I would like to suggest a short story collection as a possible choice for one of your book club meetings. A short story collection can be a good choice especially for months when members are short on time: during the winter holidays or summer months. The group can choose to read a whole collection or just a few of the stories can be chosen. The following are some short story collection suggestions for book clubs: two by Munro, as well as some others by celebrated and well regarded short story stylists.

***The Love of a Good Woman* by Alice Munro** (1998) A collection of eight stories explores such themes as the complexities of love, the unexpected implications of passion, and the strange, frequently whimsical desires of the human heart. *Winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award.*

***Dear Life: Stories* by Alice Munro** (2012) Munro [has the] peerless ability to give us the essence of a life in often brief but always spacious and timeless stories ... she illumines the moment a life is forever altered by a chance encounter or an action not taken, or by a simple twist of fate that turns a person out of his or her accustomed path and into a new way of being or thinking.

***Birds of America* by Lorrie Moore** (1998) [In] stories remarkable in their range, emotional force, and dark laughter, and in the sheer beauty and power of their language... Moore explores the personal and the universal, the idiosyncratic and the mundane, with all the wit, brio, and verve that have made her one of the best storytellers of our time. *National Book Critics Circle Award Finalist.*

***Tenth of December* by George Saunders** (2013) One of the most important and blazingly original writers of his generation, George Saunders is an undisputed master of the short story, and *Tenth of December* is his most honest, accessible, and moving collection yet. These stories take on the big questions and explore the fault lines of our own morality, delving into the questions of what makes us good and what makes us human. *2013 National Book Award Finalist.*

***The Lottery; and Other Stories* by Shirley Jackson** (various dates) *The Lottery*, one of the most terrifying stories written in this century, created a sensation when it was first published in *The New Yorker*. This collection, the only one to appear during Shirley Jackson's lifetime, unites *The Lottery* with twenty-four equally unusual stories. Together they demonstrate Jackson's remarkable range--from the hilarious to the truly horrible--and power as a storyteller.

As always, Syosset Public Library's Readers' Services Department would be glad help you obtain enough books as well as do any background research you might need for your meeting.

*All summaries from the publishers.*

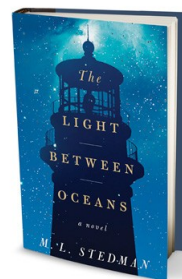
*—Sonia Grgas, Readers' Services Librarian*

## New to Book Club in a Bag

Readers' Services has added the following book to our Book Club in a Bag collection:

### *The Light Between Oceans* by M.L. Stedman

"The debut of a stunning new voice in fiction— a novel both heartbreaking and transcendent. After four harrowing years on the Western Front, Tom Sherbourne returns to Australia and takes a job as the lighthouse keeper on Janus Rock, nearly half a day's journey from the coast. To this isolated island, where the supply boat comes once a season and shore leaves are granted every other year at best, Tom brings a young, bold, and loving wife, Isabel. Years later, after two miscarriages and one stillbirth, the grieving Isabel hears a baby's cries on the wind. A boat has washed up onshore carrying a dead man and a living baby. Tom, whose records as a lighthouse keeper are meticulous and whose moral principles have withstood a horrific war, wants to report the man and infant immediately. But Isabel has taken the tiny baby to her breast. Against Tom's judgment, they claim her as their own and name her Lucy. When she is two, Tom and Isabel return to the mainland and are reminded that there are other people in the world. Their choice has devastated one of them." (from the publisher)



Please contact Readers' Services, 921-7161, ext 241 or 239 to reserve a book for your Book Club.

The revised Book Club in a Bag Pamphlet is available at the Readers' Services desk.

*— Evelyn Hershkowitz, Readers' Services Librarian*

**"I would really hope this would make people see the short story as an important art, not just something you played around with until you got a novel."**

**—Alice Munro**