
Carnegie Medal Awards Chairwoman, Nancy Pearl, stated “Choosing the two winners of the Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction and Nonfiction is no easy task, the committee reviewed hundreds of titles, and the reward for all our hard work is that we have found two winners that readers won’t be able to put down or soon forget.”

The Sympathizer the debut novel by Viet Thanh Nguyen illuminates the double-mindedness of a half French, half Vietnamese spy as he confronts impossible and dire situations in divided, war-torn Vietnam and a polarized U.S., resulting in an unsettling tale of political and military failures.

Hold Still: A Memoir with Photographs by Sally Mann offers an honest account of the author’s family history in photos and words, after sorting through a box of old papers that revealed scandals, domestic abuse, affairs, family land ownership and large amounts of money earned and lost.

The award winners will be honored on June 25, 2016 at ALA’s Annual Conference, which will be held this year in Orlando, Florida. During the event, the winning authors will each receive a medal and $5,000.

The Carnegie Medals are made possible by a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York in recognition of Andrew Carnegie’s deep belief in the power of books and learning to change the world. Congratulations to the winners!

*All book summaries are courtesy of the publishers. — Lisa Jones, Readers’ Services Librarian

"Read the best books first, or you may not have a chance to read them at all." — Henry David Thoreau
New and Upcoming Books of Possible Interest

Always on the lookout for new and upcoming books to read, I keep up with the many websites and blogs devoted to readers, writers, and books. It definitely has enabled me to discover some hidden gems. Since some of the books I have found have not been released, I have included the dates they are due out. Here are the titles that your book club may be interested in reading:

**Behave by Andromeda Romano-Lax**  
Release Date: 3/1/16  
A tale inspired by the life of controversial psychologist Rosalie Rayner Watson traces the partnership between a young psychologist and behaviorist pioneer John B. Watson at John’s Hopkins, where they conducted scandalous experiments on hundreds of infants to prove their theories about nurture over nature.

**The Girl in the Red Coat by Kate Hamer**  
Release Date: 2/16/16  
Despite being told by the authorities that she might be gone for good, a newly single mom embarks on a harrowing journey to find her daughter, who went missing during a local outdoor festival.

**Everyone Brave is Forgiven by Chris Cleave**  
Release Date: 5/3/16  
A spellbinding novel about three unforgettable individuals thrown together by war, love, and their search for belonging in the ever-changing landscape of WWII London.

**The Readers of Broken Wheel Recommend**  
by Katarina Bivald  
A Swedish woman who arrives in Iowa to learn that her pen pal has just died opens a bookstore in the woman’s honor and makes choices that threaten to bring secrets to light as she attempts to share her love of reading with the locals.

**Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys**  
Release Date: 2/2/16  
Racing to freedom with thousands of other refugees as Russian forces close in on their homes in East Prussia, Joana, Emilia, and Florian meet aboard the doomed Wilhelm Gustloff and are forced to trust each other in order to survive.

All summaries from the publishers.  
-Jean Simpson, Readers’ Service Librarian

New to Book Club in a Bag

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

**My Brilliant Friend by Elena Ferrante**

“A modern masterpiece from one of Italy’s most acclaimed authors, *My Brilliant Friend* is a rich, intense, and generous-hearted story about two friends, Elena and Lila. Ferrante’s inimitable style lends itself perfectly to a meticulous portrait of these two women that is also the story of a nation and a touching meditation on the nature of friendship.”

-From the publisher

Let us provide everything you need for a successful book discussion. We can supply you with 10 copies of the book and a discussion binder. The binder contains discussion questions, biographical information and critical material. Please contact Readers’ Services, 921-7161, ext 239 or 241 to reserve a book for your Book Club.

-Evelyn Hershkowitz, Readers’ Services Librarian

Top 10 Book Club Picks for January 2016

Ever wonder what other book clubs are reading? The website Bookmovement.com publishes lists of books that are popular with the more than 35,000 book clubs that are registered with the site. The following titles are the ones most discussed by those groups for January 2016:

1. *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah  
2. *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr  
3. *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins  
4. *The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simsion  
5. *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman  
6. *Go Set a Watchman* by Harper Lee  
7. *Circling the Sun* by Paula McLain  
8. *The Husband’s Secret* by Liane Moriarty  
9. *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger  

-Sonia Grgas, Reference Librarian