Awaiting Spring Releases

Although it has been a mild winter, I still cannot wait to put the winter clothes away. Spring is almost here and along with the flowers to lift our spirits, there are many new books to get excited about. Here are five new spring releases, your book group may want to consider:

**And After the Fire** by Lauren Belfer  Release Date: 5/3/16
A tale inspired by historical events traces the experiences of two women, one European and one American, whose lives are transformed by a mysterious Johann Sebastian Bach choral masterpiece.

**Father’s Day** by Simon Van Booy  Release Date: 4/26/16
The moving story of an orphaned girl named Harvey and the troubled uncle who raises her—an unforgettable tale of loss and redemption from the author of *The Illusion of Separateness*.

**LaRose** by Louise Erdrich  Release Date: 5/10/16
Horrified when he accidentally kills his best friend’s 5-year-old son while hunting, Landreaux Iron gives away his own young son to his friend's family according to ancient tradition, a decision that helps both families reach a tenuous peace that is threatened by a vengeful adversary.

**The Nest** by Cynthia D’Aprix Sweeney  Release Date: 3/22/16
Gathering to confront their older brother, who has recently been released from rehab after a drunk driving accident, the Plumb siblings watch as the trust fund left by their father rises and falls according to self-inflicted problems.

**Terrible Virtue** by Ellen Feldman  Release Date: 3/22/16
In a richly imagined portrait of one of the most fascinating and influential figures of the 20th century follows the founder of Planned Parenthood—the indomitable Margaret Sanger, who sacrificed two husbands, three children and scores of lovers in her fight for sexual equality and freedom.

All summaries from the publishers.

— Jean Simpson, Reader’s Services Librarian

At one magical instant in your early childhood, the page of a book—that string of confused, alien ciphers—shivered into meaning. Words spoke to you, gave up their secrets; at that moment, whole universes opened.

You became, irrevocably, a reader.

-Alberto Manguel, *A History of Reading*
Broadway Musicals and Plays—Based on, Inspired by, or Adapted from Books

Now that spring is in the air, perhaps your book group would enjoy an outing to the theater. Did you know many plays and musicals currently on Broadway are based on or adapted from books? Your book club could read the book and then go see your favorite characters come to life on the Great White Way. Here are some show stopping recommendations:

- **American Psycho** (Musical opening April 21) adapted from the novel *American Psycho* by Bret Easton Ellis.
- **The Book of Mormon** (Musical) based on the book *The Book of Mormon: An Account Written by the Hand of Mormon upon the Plates Taken from the Plates of Nephi* Translated by Joseph Smith. *Winner of the 2011 Tony for Best Musical.
- **The Color Purple** (Musical) based on the Pulitzer Prize winning novel *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker.
- **Fun Home** (Musical) adapted from the graphic memoir *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic* by Alison Bechdel. *Winner of the 2015 Tony for Best Musical.
- **Hamilton** (Musical) inspired by the biography *Alexander Hamilton* by Ron Chernow.
- **Matilda** (Musical) based on the children’s book *Matilda* by Roald Dahl.
- **Tuck Everlasting** (Musical opening April 26th) based on the children’s book *Tuck Everlasting* by Natalie Babbitt.

- Lisa Jones, 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 Boston Girl** by Anita Diamant

Addie Baum is *The Boston Girl*, born in 1900 to immigrant parents who were unprepared for and suspicious of America and its effect on their three daughters. Growing up in the North End, then a teeming multicultural neighborhood, Addie’s intelligence and curiosity take her to a world her parents can’t imagine—a world of short skirts, movies, celebrity culture, and new opportunities for women. Addie wants to finish high school and dreams of going to college. She wants a career and to find true love.

Eighty-five-year-old Addie tells the story of her life to her twenty-two-year-old granddaughter, who has asked her, “How did you get to be the woman you are today.” She begins in 1915, the year she found her voice and made friends who would help shape the course of her life. From the one-room tenement apartment she shared with her parents and two sisters, to the library group for girls she joins at a neighborhood settlement house, to her first, disastrous love affair, Addie recalls her adventures with compassion for the naïve girl she was and a wicked sense of humor.

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