Summer Reading for Book Groups

With our Adult Summer Reading Program beginning on June 6, 2017, it is a great time to start to plan future reading selections for upcoming book discussions. I narrowed down the top six books that I am eagerly awaiting this summer. Since many of the books are by authors I have enjoyed previously, I believe that they would be interesting choices for book groups. Here is a list of books that you, too, may want to put on reserve:

**The Child** by Fiona Barton Release Date: June 27, 2017

When an infant’s skeleton is discovered in a demolished house, Kate Waters strives to uncover the baby’s identity and unearths links to a decades-old kidnapping, but she is torn between helping the police and revealing her sources.

**Do Not Become Alarmed** by Maile Meloy Release Date: June 6, 2017

A tropical vacation cruise turns nightmarish for two families whose children go missing during a stop in Central America, a crisis that triggers blame, animosity, and new priorities as the once-happy parents scramble to recover their children and their lives.

**Everybody’s Son** by Thrity Umrigar Release Date: June 6, 2017

A lawman struggles to come to terms with the moral fallout of crimes committed by his loved ones when he learns that he was wrongly taken from his biological mother and that his grieving foster father exploited their family’s influence to retain custody.

**The Lying Game** by Ruth Ware Release Date: July 25, 2017

In the wake of a woman’s horrifying discovery of human remains along a scenic tidal estuary, the members of a once-inseparable clique from a second-rate boarding school near the English Channel reflect on their participation in a dangerous game of deception that contributed to the death of a teacher.

**Midnight at the Bright Ideas Bookstore** by Matthew Sullivan Release Date: June 13, 2017

Lydia Smith, a clerk at the Bright Ideas Bookstore, must unravel a puzzle left behind by a patron who has committed suicide, an effort that is complicated by memories of her violent childhood.

**Shadow Man** by Alan Drew Already Released

When a serial killer begins breaking into random homes in California’s quiet Rancho Santa Elena, detective Ben Wade and forensic specialist Natasha Betencourt confront a long-buried secret and the tragedy of a teen’s suicide in order to get ahead of the killer.

All summaries from the publishers.  

Jean Simpson, Readers’ Services Librarian

“One benefit of summer was that each day we had more light to read by.”  

-Jeanette Walls
Jockeying for a Good Book? Saddle Up to One of These Great Titles

Saturday, June 10, 2017 marks the 149th running of the Belmont Stakes at the famed Belmont Racetrack. The Belmont Stakes, first run in 1867 is the oldest of the Triple Crown events. At 1.5 miles, it is the longest and the last of the three races for 3 year old thoroughbreds held each year. The last horse to successfully win all 3 Triple Crown races was American Pharoah in 2015. Before that it was Affirmed in 1978. Here are some book titles your book club may want to read that celebrate all things equine:

**Duel for the Crown: Affirmed, Alydar and Racing’s Greatest Rivalry** by Linda Carroll & David Rosner
A look at the duel between Affirmed, the last horse to win the Triple Crown, and his archrival, Alydar. Alydar was horseracing royalty while Affirmed grew up on a backwoods Florida farm. But scrappy Affirmed held off Alydar by an ever-narrowing margin to win the Kentucky Derby, the Preakness Stakes and the Belmont Stakes in 1978.

**The Yonahlossee Riding Camp for Girls** by Anton DiSclafani
Exiled to an equestrian boarding school in the South at the height of the Great Depression for her role in a family tragedy, strong-willed teen Thea Atwell grapples with painful memories while acclimating to the school's strict environment.

**American Pharoah: The Untold Story of the Triple Crown Winner’s Legendary Rise** by Joe Drape
American Pharoah is the definitive account not only of how the ethereal colt won the Kentucky Derby, Preakness, and Belmont Stakes, but how he changed lives.

**All the Pretty Horses** by Cormac McCarthy
John Grady Cole, a 16-year-old dispossessed Texas horseman, crosses the Rio Grande into Mexico in 1949, accompanied by his pal Lacey Rawlins. This is the first book in the Border trilogy.

**Change at Jamaica** by Marshall Messer
It’s the summer of 1973 and Eddie Sacks, having flunked out of college, is driving a cab and trying to figure out exactly who and what he wants to be. The only place he finds common ground with his Nixon-loving, cigar-puffing dad is at Belmont Park, where Secretariat makes his historic bid for the Triple Crown.

**Affirmed: The Last Triple Crown Winner** by Lou Sahadi
The first biography of Affirmed, the last horse to win the Triple Crown; the descendent of Man o War and War Admiral, Affirmed won all three stages of the Triple Crown in 1978 by a combined margin of less than two lengths over rival Alydar.

All summaries from the publishers.

–Lisa Jones, Readers’ Services Librarian

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**New to Book Club In a Bag**

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

**Two-Family House** by Lynda Cohen Loigman

“Brooklyn, 1947: in the midst of a blizzard, in a two-family brownstone, two babies are born minutes apart to two women. They are sisters by marriage with an impenetrable bond forged before and during that dramatic night; but as the years progress, small cracks start to appear and their once deep friendship begins to unravel. No one knows why, and no one can stop it. One misguided choice; one moment of tragedy. Heartbreak wars with happiness and almost but not quite wins.” From debut novelist Lynda Cohen Loigman comes The Two-Family House, a moving family saga filled with heart, emotion, longing, love, and mystery.

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.

All summaries from the publishers 

–Evelyn Hershkowitz, Readers’ Services Librarian