And the Edgar Award Goes To...

In my February article, I included the nominees for the 2018 Edgar Allan Poe Awards in the category of Best Novel. On April 26, 2018, The Mystery Writers of America announced the winners in mystery fiction, non-fiction, and television, published or produced in 2017. Since your book group may be interested in selecting books in the categories of Best Novel, Best First Novel by an American Author, Best Paperback Original, and Best Fact Crime, I have provided the titles, authors and summaries for your review. For a complete list of winners, visit http://www.theedgars.com/nominees.html.

BEST NOVEL
Bluebird, Bluebird by Attica Locke
Forced by duty to return to his racially divided East Texas hometown, an African-American Texas Ranger risks his job and reputation to investigate a highly charged double-murder case involving a black Chicago lawyer and a local white woman.

BEST FIRST NOVEL BY AN AMERICAN AUTHOR
She Rides Shotgun by Jordan Harper
Fresh out of jail, Nate thrusts his 11-year-old daughter into a world of robbery and violence in an effort to keep her safe from the prison gang that has put a bounty on his head and murdered her mother.

BEST PAPERBACK ORIGINAL
The Unseeing by Anna Mazzola
In 1837, Sarah Gale, a seamstress and fallen woman, is sentenced to hang for her alleged role in the dismemberment of a woman, and her lawyer, Edmund Fleetwood, although she professes her innocence, finds the line between confessor and penitent starts to blur and cannot be sure if she is a victim or a murderer.

BEST FACT CRIME
Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI by David Grann
Presents a true account of the early twentieth-century murders of dozens of wealthy Osage and law-enforcement officials, citing the contributions and missteps of a fledgling FBI that eventually uncovered one of the most chilling conspiracies in American History.

Summaries from the publishers.
Jean Simpson, Readers’ Services Librarian
Planning ahead...Father's Day

In last month’s issue I offered some discussion suggestions for a May book club meeting featuring titles that highlight mother-child relationships, to tie in with Mother’s Day. With Father’s Day coming up in June, I would like to suggest some titles featuring father-child relationships that your group might enjoy reading.

*Peace Like a River* by Leif Enger

Young Reuben Land has little doubt that miracles happen all around us, suspecting that his own father is touched by God. When his older brother flees a controversial murder charge, Reuben, along with his older sister and father, set off on a journey that will take them to the Badlands and through a landscape more extraordinary than they could have anticipated.

*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

A gripping, heart-wrenching, and wholly remarkable tale of coming-of-age in a South poisoned by virulent prejudice, it views a world of great beauty and savage inequities through the eyes of a young girl, as her father—a crusading local lawyer—risks everything to defend a black man unjustly accused of a terrible crime.

*A Thousand Acres* by Jane Smiley

This powerful twentieth-century reimagining of Shakespeare’s *King Lear* centers on a wealthy Iowa farmer who decides to divide his farm between his three daughters. When the youngest objects, she is cut out of his will. This sets off a chain of events that brings dark truths to light and explodes long-suppressed emotions.

*The Book of Joe* by Jonathan Tropper

After writing a novel that lampooned nearly everyone in his hometown, an author is forced to return to that same town to care for his father and discovers that people have not forgotten the indignities he heaped upon them.

*Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson

As the Reverend John Ames approaches the hour of his own death, he writes a letter to his son chronicling three previous generations of his family, a story that stretches back to the Civil War and reveals uncomfortable family secrets.

All summaries from the publishers.

**New to Book Club in a Bag**

*This Is How It Always Is* by Laurie Frankel

People Magazine’s Top 10 Books of 2017
Amazon’s Best Books of 2017: Top 20
Amazon’s Best Literature and Fiction of 2017

“Laurie Frankel's *This Is How It Always Is* is a novel about revelations, transformations, fairy tales, and family. And it’s about the ways this is how it always is. Change is always hard and miraculous and hard again, parenting is always a leap into the unknown with crossed fingers and full hearts, children grow but not always according to plan. And families with secrets don’t get to keep them forever.” -from the publisher

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

Summary from the publisher.

-Evelyn Hershkowitz, Readers’ Services Librarian