New Releases for the New Year

Many of the 2019 book releases are projected to be wonderful book club picks. This is a great time to start previewing new titles for upcoming book discussions. I have listed five books that I am excited to read in the New Year. Here are the five titles you may want to consider for 2019:

- **The Age of Light** by Whitney Scharer Due Out: February
  A debut novel inspired by the life of the Vogue model-turned-renowned photographer finds Lee Miller relocating to 1929 Paris, where she becomes the muse and colleague of the mercurial Surrealist, Man Ray.
- **The Island of Sea Women** by Lisa See Due Out: March
  The ostracized daughter of a Japanese collaborator and the daughter of their Korean village’s head female diver share nearly a century of friendship that is tested by their island’s torn position between two warring empires.
- **Lost Roses** by Martha Hall Kelly Due Out: April
  From the turbulent streets of St. Petersburg and aristocratic countryside estates to the avenues of Paris where a society of fallen Russian emigres live, to the mansions of Long Island, the lives of Eliza, Sofya, and Varinka will intersect in profound ways. Martha Hall Kelly celebrates the unbreakable bonds of women’s friendship, especially during the darkest days of history.
- **My Lovely Wife** by Samantha Downing Due Out: March
  A seemingly typical suburban husband discloses the secret ways that his wife of 15 years and he keep their marriage alive and chase away domestic boredom by orchestrating creative ways to get away with murder.
- **We Must Be Brave** by Frances Liardet Due Out: February
  Caring for a lost child during the chaotic 1940 evacuation of her once-quiet Southampton village, a woman who never believed she wanted children finds herself unexpectedly at a loss when the child is taken away.

All summaries are from the publishers.

Jean Simpson, Readers’ Services Librarian
The Book Club Insider

My Top Three Favorite Books of 2018

One of my favorite parts of being a librarian is being able to recommend my favorite books. The following books are my top three books that were published in 2018. They all would make outstanding book club discussions.

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens
This is her debut novel and I look forward to seeing what else she has in store for us! Viewed with suspicion in the aftermath of a murder, Kya Clark, who has survived alone for years in a marsh near the North Carolina coast, becomes targeted by unthinkable forces.

The Great Believers by Rebecca Makkai
A sad but loving look at the AIDS epidemic in Chicago. A novel set in 1980s Chicago and contemporary Paris follows the director of a Chicago art gallery and a woman looking for her estranged daughter in Paris who both struggle to come to terms with the ways AIDS has affected their lives.

One Day in December by Josie Silver
Sometimes you just need a good romance! Laurie is pretty sure love at first sight doesn’t exist anywhere but the movies. But then, through a misted-up bus window one snowy December day, she sees a man who she knows instantly is the one. Their eyes meet, there’s a moment of pure magic...and then her bus drives away.

If you are interested in any of the above books, please see a Readers’ Services Librarian on the 2nd floor.

All summaries from the publishers.  -Evelyn Hershkowitz, Readers’ Services Librarian

Top Book Club Picks

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 10 books are currently* the most discussed titles by those groups.

1. Educated by Tara Westover
2. Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens
3. Becoming by Michelle Obama
4. Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng
5. Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate
6. The Girls at 17 Swann Street by Yara Zgheib
7. An American Marriage by Tayari Jones
8. The Alice Network by Kate Quinn
9. Pachinko by Min Jin Lee
10. Killers of the Flower Moon by David Grann

*week of January 7-14, 2019  -Sonia Grgas, Reference Librarian