The Book Club Insider
Monthly Newsletter

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Upcoming Events
For Readers
Evening Book Club will discuss The World We Found by Thrity Umrigar on Tuesday, Oct 8, 2013 at 7:30 PM.
Afternoon Book Club will discuss The Ghost Writer by Philip Roth on Tuesday, Oct 22, 2013 at 1:30 PM.

New Fall Releases From Favorite Authors

One Summer: America, 1927 by Bill Bryson (Release Date 10/1/13)
Popular non-fiction writer Bill Bryson (A Walk in the Woods) takes a close look at historical events and characters that shaped this notable time period starting with Charles Lindbergh’s successful solo flight across the Atlantic on May 21, 1927. Also included is Babe Ruth and his home-run record, Al Capone, Al Jolson’s filming of the Jazz Singer and the approach of the Great Depression. Booklist starred review.

The Signature of all Things by Elizabeth Gilbert (Release Date 10/1/13)
N.Y. Times bestselling author of the highly popular Eat, Pray, Love turns to historical fiction in her new book. Set in the late 19th century, The Signature of all Things introduces us to Henry Whittaker, a dirt poor immigrant and botany expert from England who later becomes one of the richest men in Philadelphia and his daughter Alma who has inherited her father’s love of botany which takes her across the globe from the U.S. to the Amazon and Tahiti.

David & Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits & the Art of Battling Giants by Malcolm Gladwell (Release Date 10/1/13)
The author of such popular books as The Outliers and The Tipping Point is back with a new book which observes the often deceptive differences between giants and underdogs. This thought provoking book explores how we think about obstacles and disadvantages. Gladwell’s findings are telling and often surprising.

We are Water by Wally Lamb (Release Date 10/22/13)
Lamb’s (I Know This Much is True, She’s Come Undone) new book set in New England and New York during the first years of Obama’s presidency centers on the multilayered portrait of marriage, family and our need for connection. Present day issues such as the legalization of gay marriage and racial violence are heavily discussed. Highly recommended by Library Journal.

The Valley of Amazement by Amy Tan (Release Date 11/15/13)
Tan’s (The Joy Luck Club) new book is set in Shanghai in 1912 and spans 40 years and 2 continents. The Valley of Amazement blends the setting locations of Shanghai and San Francisco as three generations of women are pulled apart by outside forces. Booklist starred review.

- Lisa Jones, Readers’ Services Librarian
Horrors!

Halloween is coming: could this be the time for your book club to try a book in the horror genre? Here are a few eerie and discussible suggestions for a spooky October meeting:

**The Turn of the Screw** by Henry James  A governess has been hired to care for two orphaned young children in their uncle's English country home. But soon after she meets the boy and his sister, the governess begins to see fearful apparitions. With growing alarm, she must wonder about the target of the ghostly presences. Are they haunting her, or the sweet, innocent children?

**Frankenstein** by Mary Shelley  At once a Gothic thriller, a passionate romance, and a cautionary tale about the dangers of science, *Frankenstein* tells the story of committed science student Victor Frankenstein. Obsessed with discovering "the cause of generation and life" and "bestowing animation upon lifeless matter," Frankenstein assembles a human being from stolen body parts but, upon bringing it to life, he recoils in horror at the creature’s hideousness. Tormented by isolation and loneliness, the once-innocent creature turns to evil and unleashes a campaign of murderous revenge against his creator, Frankenstein.

**World War Z: An Oral History of the Zombie War** by Max Brooks  The Zombie War came unthinkably close to eradicating humanity. Max Brooks, driven by the urgency of preserving the acid-etched first-hand experiences of the survivors from those apocalyptic years, traveled across the United States of America and throughout the world. He recorded the testimony of men, women, and sometimes children who came face-to-face with the living, or at least the undead, hell of that dreadful time.

**The Ghost Stories of Edith Wharton**  Wharton admits in her postscript to this spine-tingling collection, "...till I was twenty-seven or - eight, I could not sleep in the room with a book containing a ghost story." Once her fear was overcome, however, she took to writing tales of the supernatural for publication in the magazines of the day. These eleven finely wrought pieces showcase her mastery of the traditional New England ghost story and her fascination with spirits, hauntings, and other supernatural phenomena.

**Dolores Claiborne** by Stephen King  Forced by overwhelming evidence to confess her life of crime, Dolores Claiborne, a foul-tempered New Engander, describes how her disintegrating marriage years before caused her heart to turn murderous.

If your group is interested in any of these titles, the Readers’ Services Dept. will be happy to get enough books for your group as well as research any background information required by your discussion needs.

(Summaries from the publishers)  - Sonia Grgas, Readers’ Services Librarian