

Librarian's Shelf by Rachelle McPhillips

Book group announces reading list for 2014

The Columbus Public Library Book Discussion Group usually meets at the library on the last Thursday of the month. These book discussions are free, relaxed, and everyone is welcome to join us.

Our first discussion this year will be held at 7:00p.m. on Thursday, January 30. We will chat about John Green's "The Fault in Our Stars." This best-selling young adult novel about teens dealing with serious illness should lend itself to thoughtful discussion. The film adaptation will light up the big screen later this year. There is still time to read this one before the first book club meeting! Stop by the library and ask for a copy at the front desk.

In February we will read and discuss, "Skeletons at the Feast" by Chris Bohjalian. Bohjalian has called this his favorite novel because he loved spending time with this "motley group" of characters. Set in the waning months of World War II, "Skeletons at the Feast" is based on an actual diary given to the author by a friend.

When her father and brother go off to war, Prussian aristocrat Anna Emmerich flees west with the rest of her family and a Scottish POW who happens to be her lover. They meet with a young German Jew who helps them make their journey through Germany. Books set in this era have led to meaningful discussion and it will be interesting how this one is received by readers here at CPL.

"The Round House," by Louise Erdrich is our selection for March. After a woman is brutalized on a reservation in North Dakota, her husband and son seek justice. They are soon frustrated by the obstacles they encounter. Desperate for answers and struggling to come to terms with a violent world, 13-year-old Joe begins an investigation apart from his father.

Visit <http://youtu.be/IFVgqde1XQI> to hear Erdrich read a poignant passage from "The Round House."

"And the Mountains Echoed," by Khaled Hosseini, is our selection for April. Considering the acclaim from critics as well as CPL patrons for "The Kite Runner" and "A Thousand Splendid Suns," it is no surprise that this recent novel is surrounded by starred reviews.

In Afghanistan, a widower is faced with a heart-breaking decision. The effects of that decision run through many stories and reach from Kabul to Greece, Paris, and San Francisco. Through Hosseini's skilled storytelling and thoughtfully crafted characters, this novel explores how we love and care for one another.

Other titles we will discuss in 2014 include "The Story Teller" by Jodi Picoult, "The Alchemist" by Paulo Coelho, "Once Upon a Town" by Bob Greene (One Book One Nebraska 2014), "Orphan Train" by Christina Baker Kline, "Eleanor & Park" by Rainbow Rowell, "One Hundred Years of Solitude" by Gabriel Garcia Marquez, and "Gone Girl" by Gillian Flynn.

For a complete list of all the books we will read and chat about, visit the book club page at <http://www.columbusne.us/library> or call Rachelle at 562-4201.

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