

“Librarian’s Shelf” by Rachelle McPhillips

Book group’s reading list has something for everyone

The Columbus Public Library Book Discussion Group usually meets at the library on the last Thursday of the month. Everyone is welcome to join the discussion. Our 2011 reading list includes classics, bestsellers, fiction and nonfiction. I hope you will find something appealing to check out.

On Thursday, January 27th, the group will discuss T.C. Boyle’s “The Tortilla Curtain.” This novel paints a portrait of two distinct ways of life: a struggling, homeless immigrant couple, and their middle-class, gated community dwelling neighbors. Their worlds collide when one of them is hit by a car. This book has been considered (and in some cases, chosen) for “One Book, One Community” reading programs in several places. It has been considered for this group’s reading list more than once and we’re excited to have it make the list this year.

In February, we will read and discuss, “Into The Wild” by Jon Krakauer. This is the biography of Christopher McCandless, a young man who cut family ties and gave away his life’s savings to travel cross country. His ultimate destination was the Alaskan wilderness, where he hoped to live off the land. He did so successfully for 100 days.

This moving telling of his story was adapted for the big screen and directed by Sean Penn, with Emile Hirsch portraying McCandless. The book is a favorite of one of our regular book club attendees and the movie is a favorite of mine. The library owns both the book and the movie. If you are looking for a month to begin attending and can’t make it in January, February will be a great time to start.

“The Help,” by Kathryn Stockett is our selection in March. This book was hot, hot, hot last year and was in high demand by individual readers and book club readers alike.

From Wikipedia: “The novel is Stockett’s debut. It took her five years to complete the book, which was rejected by at least 45 literary agents. “The Help” has since been published in 35 countries and three languages. As of May 27, 2010, it had spent a full year on the Los Angeles Times bestseller list and was sitting at #1.”

If you missed this one last year, now is a great time to check it out. Join us at the end of March for what promises to be a lively discussion.

Other titles we will discuss in 2011 include, “Stones Into Schools,” by Greg Mortenson, “Room,” by Emma Donoghue, “The Handmaid’s Tale,” by Margaret Atwood, “and “Finding Nouf,” by Zoe Ferrais.

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

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<http://www.columbuslibrary.info>.