

GFWC/IOWA ADVENTURES IN READING

2016-2018

FICTION

ME BEFORE YOU – Jo Jo Moyes A woman who has hardly been beyond her English village finds herself while caring for a wealthy, embittered quadriplegic.

FOREIGN AGENT – Brad Thor The counterterrorism operative Scot Harvath searches for an informant who has compromised an American mission in Syria.

THE NIGHTINGALE – Kristin Hannah Two sisters are separated in WW2 France; one in the countryside, the other in Paris.

HERE'S TO US – Elin Hildenbrand Sparks fly as a celebrity chef's ex-wives pile into a small cabin in Nantucket to join his widow for the reading of his will.

THE GIRL IN THE RED COAT – Kate Hamer A gripping novel about a mother and daughter who were separated when the girl was 8 years old. Beautifully written and unpredictable.

THE LONGEST NIGHT – Andria Williams Author's debut novel set in 1959 when a young couple and their two daughters are moved to an army town where Paul is assigned to help oversee one of the country's 1st nuclear reactors.

CHASING THE BUTTERFLY – Jayme Mansfield (2016 Book Club Selection) Winner of several awards! From a vineyard in the South of France to the sophisticated city of Paris, Ella Moreau searches for the hope and love she lost as a young girl when her mother abandoned the family.

WHERE WE FALL: A NOVEL – Rochelle B. Weinstein By all accounts Abby Holden has it all. She's the mother of a beautiful teenager and wife of a beloved high school football coach. All it took to achieve her charmed life was her greatest act of betrayal.

WHEN I FOUND YOU – Catherine Ryan Hyde While duck-hunting, a childless, middle-aged man finds a newborn abandoned in the woods. To his shock, the baby is alive. He wants to adopt the boy, but the child's grandmother steps in, making the promise to bring the boy back to meet his rescuer when he is older.

SUMMER OF THE MIDNIGHT SUN (ALASKAN QUEST BOOK #1) – Tracie Peterson Leah Barringer and her brother Jacob have come to love the Alaskan Territory they call home. The unexpected arrival of Jayce Kincaid, who spurned her 10 years earlier, awakens feelings she would prefer to leave buried.

ALL THE LIGHT WE CANNOT SEE: A NOVEL (Pulitzer Prize winning book) – Anthony Doerr A beautiful, stunning, ambitious best-seller about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II.

CHRISTIAN FICTION

NOT BY SIGHT – (STONE RIVER) – Kate Breslin Emma Wyatt agrees to tutor a recently blinded, embittered soldier because of the \$50,000 paycheck, his brother offers. Blind herself, Emma dreams of independence and freedom away from her over-protective family.

ANGELS WALKING: A NOVEL – Karen Kingsbury The 1st in a new series about second chances – a dramatic story about a washed up baseball player, the love he left behind, and the miracles that might save them both?

A RUSH OF WINGS – BOOK #1 – Kristen Heitzmann When fragmented images and unfocused panic force Noelle St. Claire to flee her wealthy, sheltered life in New York, she gains sanctuary on a ranch in the Rocky Mountains painting breathtaking scenery. The wall she hides behind is eventually breached and she can no longer hide.

HER TEXAS COWBOY (NEW HORIZON RANCH: MULE HOLLOW BOOK 1) – Debra Clopton Five ranch-hands inherit a Texas ranch from their boss. These cowboys and cowgirl vow to honor their beloved boss by making the ranch the success he envisioned.

OUT OF A DREAM (SANDY COVE SERIES BOOK #1) – Rosemary Hines Michelle Baron should be reveling in her new life in Sandy Cove, Oregon. A newlywed setting, her husband a junior partner in a law firm. A series of nightmares haunt Michelle. She begins a spiritual journey that will challenge her Christian heritage as well as her marriage.

THE PRAYER BOX (A CAROLINA CHRONICLES BOOK #1) – Lisa Wingate When Lola Anne Poole, an old-timer on Hatteras Island passes away at 91, Tandi Jo Reese, a struggling young mother who lives in Lola's rental cottage, is charged with cleaning out the old Victorian House, where she finds 81 prayer boxes which could change everything for her.

THE MISTLETOE SECRET – Richard Paul Evans (to be released in November 2016) From the master of the Christmas novel, The Mistletoe Secret is a moving holiday story about 2 people who brave loneliness and loss to find love. 29 year-old Kelly Arrington is at a low point in life. Briefly married, her husband abandoned her before the birth of their stillborn child. Lonely and in mourning, she copes by starting an anonymous blog, "The Mistletoe Letters."

MYSTERY, THRILLERS, SUSPENSE

THE HOUSE OF SECRETS – Brad Meltzer & Tod Goldberg A secret worth killing for. A woman with no past. An act of treason that changed America.

QUICK AND THE DEAD (ALEX QUICK MYSTERY BOOK 1) – Susan Moody The disappearance of Alex's partner follows her telling of being menaced by a stalker. Was she a victim, or a killer?

FOREIGN DECEIT: A DAVID WOLF MYSTERY (BOOK 1 OF 8) – Jeff Carson Sgt David Wolf has put his Special Forces days behind him, settling down as a cop in the small ski resort town of Rocky Points, Colorado. Devastated by the news that his only sibling has committed suicide in the Alps of Italy, he believes he hasn't been given the truth of the story, he heads to Italy into a deadly situation.

RULES OF PREY (BOOK 1 OF 26) – John Sandford (pen name of Pulitzer Prize winning journalist John Camp)

An extremely well-written series about policeman Lucas Davenport who serves the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. All of these books take place in this area, sometimes spilling over into Iowa, Wisconsin & Nebraska, etc. The plots are mind-blowing (as 1 reviewer said “You can’t wait to turn the page, but you are almost afraid to.”) Some of the murders are quite graphic, but definitely are well-described! Just when you think you have solved the crime, something else happens to change your mind. Probably best if read in order, but not totally necessary. Each title ends with the word “PREY.”

CHILD OF THE STATE (AN ELIZABETH MC CLAINE THRILLER BOOK 2) – Catherine Lea “He’s first, you’re next.” That’s the message someone scribbled on a photo of Stacy May Charm’s six-year-old son, two days before her release from prison. Stacy knows why. She doesn’t know who.

NON-FICTION

WHY ME? – Sarah Burleton A true story about the horrific child abuse the author survived! It is on the same level of “A child called It!”

A LUCKY LIFE INTERRUPTED: A MEMOIR OF HOPE – Tom Brokow His life and recollections after being diagnosed with multiple myeloma in 2013.

PUMPKIN FLOWERS: A SOLDIER’S STORY – Matti Friedman Friedman’s striking memoir about young men changed by the war in the late 1990’s.

WHEN BREATH BECOMES AIR –Paul Kalanithi (a top rated book so far in 2016) As a 36 year old neurosurgeon, Paul is diagnosed with Stage 4 Lung Cancer. His life after the diagnosis is told.

THE FORGOTTEN 500: THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE MEN WHO RISKED ALL FOR THE GREATEST RESCUE MISSION OF WORLD WAR II – Gregory A. Freeman In 1944 the OSS set out to recover more than 500 downed airmen trapped between enemy lines in Yugoslavia. Classified for over half a century for political reasons, the full account of this unforgettable story of loyalty, self-sacrifice and bravery is now being told for the first time.

SILENCE – Natasha Preston For 11 years, Oakley Farrell has been silent. At the age of 5, she stopped talking, and no one seems to know why. Refusing to communicate beyond a few physical actions, Oakley remains in her own little world. Bullied at school, she has only 1 friend, Cole Benson, who stands beside her. When Oakley is forced to face someone from her past, can she hold her secret in any longer?

ADVENTURE, SPORTS & FITNESS

40 DAYS: LIFE, LOVE, LOSS AND A HISTORIC RUN AROUND ONE OF THE WORLD’S LARGEST LAKES – Steve Cannon This is a brutally honest and inspiring story about Steve’s 40 day, 1037 mile run around Lake Michigan. That is the equivalent of 40 marathons in 40 days! This book is not as much about running as it is about dedication, love, loss and living in the moment. Most importantly, it is about what you can do if you push yourself farther than you ever thought possible. **Steve is an Iowan who runs and cycles to support those fighting cancer and those who lost the battle. He has run over 100 marathons, ridden in at least 18 RAGBRAI’s, several 36 hour Adventure races, nearly died attempting the famed Yukon River Quest. This is just a short listing of his adventures!**

THE BOYS IN THE BOAT – Daniel James Brown The story of the American Rowers who pursued the Gold Medal in the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games.

LOST ON A MOUNTAIN IN MAINE – Donn Fendler, Joseph Egan & Joseph B. Egan Based on a true account of a boy's harrowing journey through the vast wilderness of the Katahdin Mountains. The 12 year old Boy Scout steps away from his Troop for only a minute, but in the foggy mountains of Maine, that's all it takes!

THE EMERALD MILE: THE EPIC STORY OF THE FASTEST RIDE IN HISTORY THROUGH THE HEART OF THE GRAND CANYON – Kevin Fedarko In the Spring of 1983 massive flooding confronted engineers at the Glen Canyon Dam that may have resulted in the most catastrophic dam failure in History. At the same time, Kenton Grura decides to use it as a hydraulic sling shot to propel him down the river!

THE NEXT 3 ITEMS WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO ALL OF US – THEY ARE INEXPENSIVE, EASY TO DO, AND REQUIRE NO SPECIAL EQUIPMENT!! PLEASE CONSIDER THESE.

CHAIR YOGA FOR SENIORS: A GENTLE SEQUENCE TO GET YOU STARTED – Nancy Coffin A gentle form of Yoga practiced sitting in a chair, or standing using a chair for support.

TAI CHI IN A CHAIR – Cynthia Quarta – Practice in seated form. Various forms to choose from.

STRENGTH TRAINING FOR SENIORS – THE 30 MINUTE WORKOUT WITHOUT GYM – Mirsad Hasic Benefits from this are decreased Arthritis risk, Prevent Heart and Cardiovascular Diseases, Increase Bone Strength and Prevent Osteopenia, Improve Balance and Flexibility, Maintain and Lose Weight easier!

BIOGRAPHIES/AUTOBIOGRAPHIES

SPILLED MILK: BASED ON A TRUE STORY – K.L. Randis Spilled Milk is a story about resilience, the strength of the human mind and the willpower to live a better life.

MY LUCKY LIFE IN AND OUT OF SHOW BUSINESS: A MEMOIR – Dick Van Dyke One of the greats of the Golden Age of television gives a heart-warming look into his multi-layered life.

JIMMY STEWART: THE TRUTH BEHIND THE LEGEND – Michael Mann An in-depth book about the famous actor, his bravery as a fighter pilot in WWII and the many sides of his personality.

****Several bookstores, ½ price bookstores and libraries may have many of these books. All of them can be purchased on Amazon.

Any questions? Contact: Karen Havran, GFWC/Iowa Adventures in Reading Chairman, 200 South Main Street, Toledo, IA 52342, or call 641-484-4007, or email at: dkhavran@iowatelecom.net

This list will be posted on the GFWC/Iowa website also in the near future. (Please make copies for members who do not have computer access)

HAPPY READING!!!