

First Unitarian Book Group 2022

Meets at 7:00 on the second Monday of the month

Except no meeting in August; October is rescheduled to avoid Columbus Day.

January 10: *Taste: My Life Through Food*, Stanley Tucci, 304 pages (Gloria)

"From award-winning actor and food obsessive Stanley Tucci comes an intimate and charming memoir of life in and out of the kitchen."

February 14: *The Lacuna*, Barbara Kingsolver, 507 pages (Nancy)

"*The Lacuna* contains two very distinct parts. One features a vibrant Mexican landscape with the equally colorful personalities of Rivera, Kahlo, and Trotsky. The other centers more on Harrison's reclusive existence in small-town America and his battle with the House Un-American Activities Committee."

March 14: *How the Word is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America*, Clint Smith, 352 pages, (Judy D)

"Beginning in his hometown of New Orleans, Clint Smith leads the reader on an unforgettable tour of monuments and landmarks—those that are honest about the past and those that are not—that offer an intergenerational story of how slavery has been central in shaping our nation's collective history, and ourselves."

April 11: *Klara and the Sun*, Kazuo Ishiguro, 320 pages (Emily)

"In this beautiful novel, Ishiguro presents an "Artificial Friend," a robot girl with artificial intelligence designed as a playmate for real children. It is a simultaneously heartbreaking and heart-mending story about the abyss we may never cross."

May 9: *Eat the Buddha*, Barbara Demick, 352 pages (Langdon)

"Illuminating a culture that has long been romanticized by Westerners as deeply spiritual and peaceful, Demick reveals what it is really like to be a Tibetan in the twenty-first century, trying to preserve one's culture, faith, and language against the depredations of a seemingly unstoppable, technologically all-seeing superpower."

June 13: *The Personal Librarian*, Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray, 352 pages (Pat)

"A remarkable novel about J. P. Morgan's personal librarian, Belle da Costa Greene, the Black American woman who was forced to hide her true identity and pass as white in order to leave a lasting legacy that enriched our nation."

July 11: *The Land of Green Plums*, Herta Muller, 256 pages (Langdon)

"Set in Romania at the height of Ceausescu's reign of terror, *The Land of Green Plums* tells the story of a group of young people who leave the impoverished province for the city in search of better prospects and camaraderie. But their hopes are ravaged, because the city, no less than the countryside, bears everywhere the mark of the dictatorship's corrosive touch."

September 12: *Intimacies: A Novel*, Katie Kitamura, 240 pages (Janna)

"An interpreter has come to The Hague to escape New York and work at the International Court. A woman of many languages and identities, she is looking for a place to finally call home...She's drawn into simmering personal dramas."

October 12 (Wednesday): *Three Girls from Bronzeville: A Uniquely American Memoir of Race, Fate and Sisterhood*, Dawn Turner, 336 pages (Edwin)

"A 'beautiful, tragic, and inspiring' (Publishers Weekly, starred review) memoir about three Black girls from the storied Bronzeville section of Chicago that offers a penetrating exploration of race, opportunity, friendship, sisterhood, and the powerful forces at work that allow some to flourish...and others to falter."

November 14: *Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead*, Olga Tokarczuk, 288 pages (Erin)

"A deeply satisfying thriller cum fairy tale, *Drive Your Plow over the Bones of the Dead* is a provocative exploration of the murky borderland between sanity and madness, justice and tradition, autonomy and fate. Whom do we deem sane? it asks. Who is worthy of a voice?"

December 12: 2023 Book Selection

Also Recommended:

A Separation, Katie Kitamura, 240 pages (Janna)

All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team, Christina Soontornvat, 288 pages (Erin)

Beautiful World, Where Are You, Sally Rooney, 368 pages (Judith S)

Fierce Attachments: A Memoir, Vivian Gomick, 182 pages (Kathy)

First Principles: What America's Founders Learned from the Greeks and Romans and How that Shaped our Country, Thomas Ricks, 416 pages (Edwin)

How to Hide an Empire: A History of the Greater United States, Daniel Immerwahr, 528 pages (Martina)

Long Bright River, Liz Moore, 496 pages (Judith S)

Midnight in Washington: How We almost Lost Our Democracy and Still Could, Adam Schiff, 528 pages (Gloria)

Red Island House, Andrea Lee, 288 pages (Emily)

Suite Française, Irene Nemirovsky, 416 pages (Kathy)

The Girl with the Louding Voice, Abi Daré, 384 pages (Allison)

The Transit of Venus, Shirley Hazzard, 337 pages (Judith S)

Vanderbilt: The Rise and Fall of an American Dynasty, Anderson Cooper, 336 pages (Judy D)