

# May 2017 Wayne Readers' Recommendations

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*We want to hear from you. Please send a blurb about something you've read and want to share with CML. Postings will be published monthly except over the summer. Next posting will be in April 2017. Send your recommendations to*

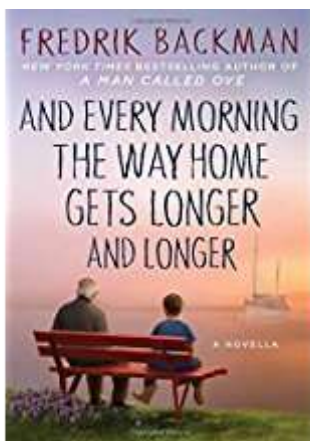
[jadelbergCML@gmail.com](mailto:jadelbergCML@gmail.com)

*This month's blog has **12** entries from enthusiastic readers. Try some of these selections while you rest those gardening muscles.*

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## Fiction

**And Every Morning the Way Home Gets Longer and Longer** by Fredrik Backman (Fiction)



Reviewed by Bev Petell

My blog is going to be short and sweet, like this novella. To quote the inside jacket: "...an exquisitely moving portrait of an elderly man's struggle to hold onto his most precious memories and his family's efforts to care for him even as they must find a way to let go."

I read this short book through tears and through the eyes of a daughter, wife and mother/grandmother.

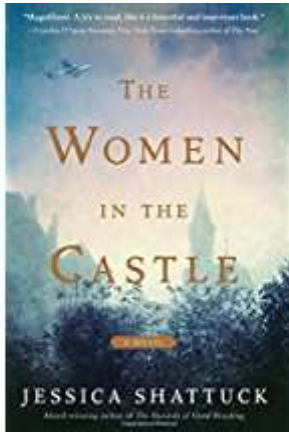
Another gem from Fredrik Backman. (A Man Called Ove, Brit-Marie Was Here, My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry)

Beartown will be published in May 2017...can't wait!

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## ***The Women in the Castle* by Jessica Shattuck (Historical Fiction)**

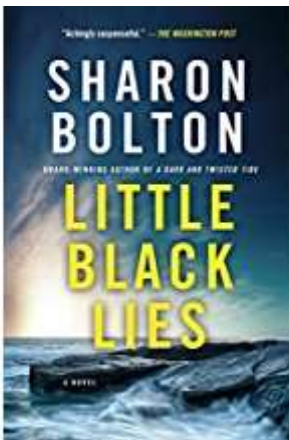


It's no wonder this masterpiece was seven years in the making. Jessica Shattuck's character, place, and historical development create a powerful vision that explores the aftermath of World War II in a new way.

Set at the end of World War II, widowed Marianne von Lingenfels returns to the once-grand (now crumbling) castle of her resister husband's ancestors. Shattuck weaves together the life paths of three women raising their children, rebuilding their lives, and reflecting on their earlier life choices.

Reviewed by Gina LaMarche

## ***Little Black Lies* by Sharon Bolton (Mystery)**



A twisted Falkland Island mystery. Mix in pilot whales, sunken ships, penguins and PTSD and you have an adventure. Well worth the read!

Reviewed by Steve Dodge

## ***His Majesty's Hope* by Susan Elia MacNeal (Mystery)**



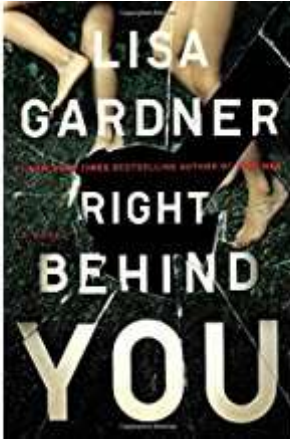
This is the third in a series about Maggie Hope who is a spy and code breaker in England during WWII. In this book she goes under-cover to get information from the Nazi's in Germany. Although this book could stand alone, I do wish I had read the two previous books in order to have "fleshed out" the character of Maggie who started as a secretary for Winston Churchill. Enjoyed the book and I have the next one in the series on order from the library.

Reviewed by Connie Locashio

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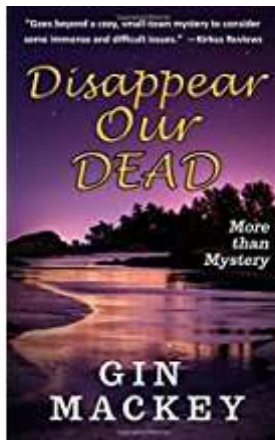
**Right Behind You** by Lisa Gardner (Suspense)



For suspense fans--a must! A vortex of mystery and drama surrounds this Lisa Gardner great! For you who-dunnit

Reviewed by Steve Dodge

**Disappear our Dead** by Gin Mackey (Fiction)



*Disappear our Dead* is Profound. Gin Mackey's new novel, *Disappear our Dead*, is profound. I know that's an unusual adjective to apply to a novel, but this is much more than a great story.

The death of the husband of Abby who lives on the coast of Maine plunges her into grief, her life deteriorating into isolation, when she rarely got out of bed. But then her daughter gets her up and out, and she finds new life in performing home funerals and "awakes."

I loved the idea of "awakes" which gather folks around a dying person to let that person know how much he or she meant to the folks. These were major events with music and lots of story-telling, and clearly made a big difference as the end of a life neared. I also learned a lot about home funerals, something that was common in the old days but is rare today.

This information is why I called the novel profound. But don't get me wrong, there's also a compelling murder story as Abby pursues the idea that someone murdered a lady who was on her death's bed but not yet ready to go. Some folks suspect that Abby killed the lady, so she seeks the truth to clear the air and allow her to move forward with her plan to offer home funerals and awakes to families in her area.

I'll only tell you that you will be surprised by what Abby discovers. And you will not put this novel down. It's a great read but even better, it's an important book on end of life care and funerals.

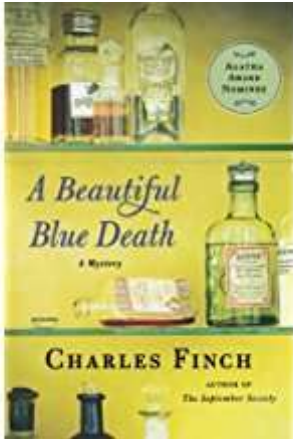
Gin Mackey lives in Owls Head and is a very good writer. Her short stories have appeared in the anthologies Best New England Crime Stories 2016, and she is past president of the New England Chapter of Sisters in Crime. And no, that doesn't mean they are criminals! But they do write great crime novels.

Reviewed by George Smith (To read more of George's book reviews, go to [www.georgesmithmaine.com](http://www.georgesmithmaine.com).)

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## A Beautiful Blue Death by Charles Finch (Mystery)



A Victorian gentleman detective! An unlikely combination.

Charles Finch presents with just such a character in his debut novel, *A BEAUTIFUL BLUE DEATH*. Charles Lenox proves that murder and crime exists in London's upper crust and Parliament, not only in the seamy and dirty districts. Help him solve the "blue death" of a parlor maid, and other misadventures.

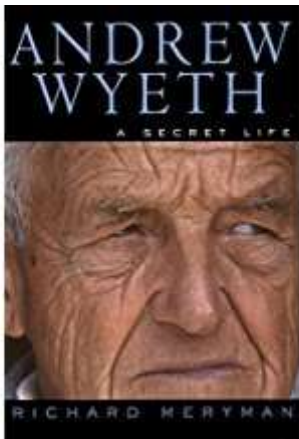
This is the first at Cary Memorial, more to come.

Reviewed by Bill Chellis

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## Non-Fiction

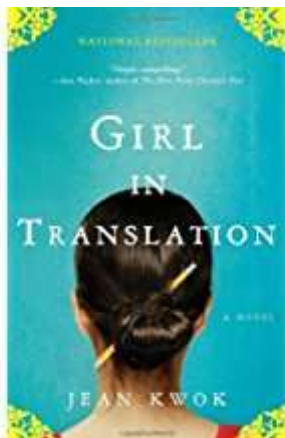
### Andrew Weyth A Secret Life by Richard Meryman



This book delves into the heart of the hidden, secretive Wyeth. From early childhood he was sensitive, seeing in nature and in people details others couldn't see. His very controlling father NC, pushed Andrew to copy his painting methods, but Andrew found his own "truer" method. Betsy his wife was his most supportive critic and fan. We learn what lies below the surface of his paintings and his austere style. Complete with many reproductions of his work, it is a wonderful book!

Reviewed by Pam Chenea

### Girl in Translation by Jean Kwok (Autobiography)



O. Magazine says: "Part fairy tale, part autobiography." A debut novel about a 5-year-old girl who moves with her Mom from Hong Kong to Chinatown in N.Y.C. A heart-wrenching look at the challenges of immigrant life and family interactions, told from the perspective of a 12-year-old girl. I could not put it down.

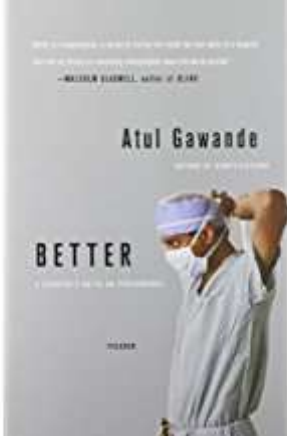
Reviewed by Jill Howes



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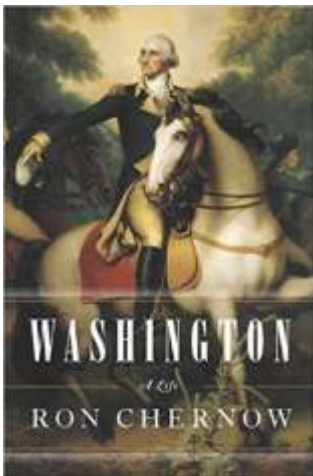
**Better** by Atul Gawande (Medicine/Non-Fiction)



Better considers compelling medical issues and illustrates the issues with fascinating individual cases. The overarching theme is what makes a "good doctor". The issues range from the importance and complications of doing the "morally right thing" to the flaws in our medical malpractice system. The illustrations include: a campaign to eradicate polio in a 50,000 square mile area of rural India in 3 days (global cooperation - 4000 health care supervisors -37,000 children vaccinated); the development of forward surgical units for the treatment of wounded soldiers; efforts to make sure doctors and nurses washed their hands which reduced MRSA rates to zero in one hospital system. Better (written before Gawande's most recent book, Being Mortal is easy to read and makes you think.

Reviewed by Jane Andrews

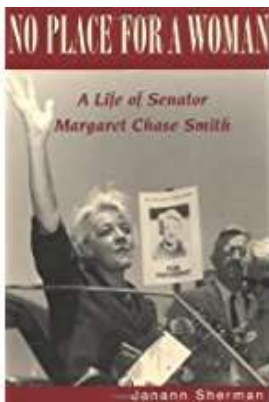
**Washington** by Ken Chernow. (Biography)



For anyone interested in the man himself and in comparing balance of power struggles of that era with those of our present day, this extremely engaging biography is not to be missed. It is a long one, over 800 pages, and in the past I have been ready for a biography of this length, although enjoyable, to draw to a close. This time I was almost sorry to see the end coming. For me George Washington has always been a somewhat inscrutable historical figure, aside from the usual accounting of his accomplishments. Chernow's biography brings so many features of his personality into bright light: his burning desire to appear well, his devotion to his family, his generosity toward everyone with whom he was connected privately and publicly, his rigid sense of duty to his country, his powers of physical endurance, his struggle with the slavery issue, and his longing to be remembered by posterity. For those interested in history and remarkable personalities, this is a book for both the choir and congregation.

Reviewed by Lee Behrendt

**No Place for a Woman: A life of Senator Margaret Chase Smith** by Janann Sherman (Biography)



A very interesting biography of Margaret Chase Smith. The author, Janann Sherman, a professor and chair of the history department at the University of Memphis, spent more than one hundred hours personally interviewing Senator Smith. Ms. Sherman's research sources included the holdings of the Margaret Chase Smith Library. The book is a detailed portrait of a remarkable, trailblazing woman of many firsts who did not consider herself a feminist. It is also the story of a woman of character and conviction who was one of the first people to stand up to Joe McCarthy in her Declaration of Conscience speech in the Senate on June 1, 1950.

Reviewed by Cynthia Pelliccia