

September 2017 Wayne Readers' Recommendations

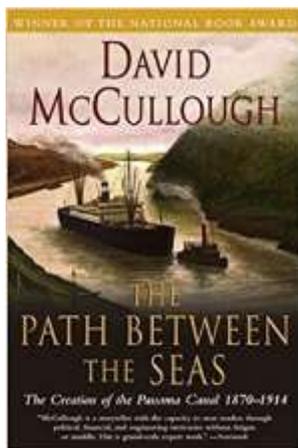


We want to hear from you. Please send a blurb about something you've read and want to share with CML. Postings will be published monthly except over the summer. Next posting will be in October 2017. Send your recommendations to

jadelbergCML@gmail.com

*This month's blog has **12** entries from enthusiastic readers. Try some of these selections during those great moments between the last of the company and the beginning of back to regular life!*

Non-Fiction

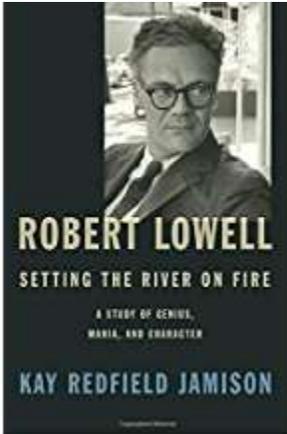


The Path Between the Seas by David McCullough

A stirring in-depth description of this huge endeavor as assembled by the master historian, David McCullough. This is the way history comes to life; the heroes, villains, saints, and sinners are all interwoven into an epic tale of nation building, social experimentation, and medical advancement. Was the United States correct to Dig-In to this project?

Reviewed by Mary Jean Cowing

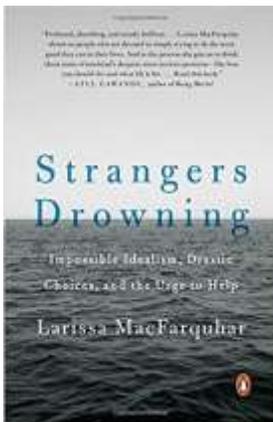
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Robert Lowell, Setting the River on Fire: A Study of Genius, Mania, and Character by Kay Redfield Jamison (Biography)

This book is not for the faint of heart. Its subject is the entwined genius and madness of Robert Lowell, without doubt the greatest American poet since T.S. Eliot. Jamison harnesses both her clinical and her own experience of manic depressive illness to a prodigious knowledge of Lowell's life and work; the result is magnificent. The book is a tribute to the Lowell's character; to the resilience of a man who, though his life was repeatedly shattered by psychotic breakdowns, recovered again and again to take on with concentrated and relentless passion the hard work of writing.

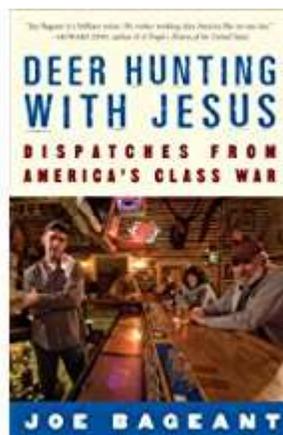
Reviewed by Betsy Connor Bowen



Strangers Drowning: Impossible Idealism, Drastic Choices, and the Urge to Help by Larissa MacFarquhar (Non-Fiction)

A very thoughtful book exploring both the ethical dilemmas in trying to be a 'do-gooder' (her term), and individual stories. I found the stories fascinating, and the book challenged my thinking about how I can contribute to society and the world. Some of the connections she attempted to make between causes and results I found confusing, but overall the book is well worth reading.

Reviewed by Judy Danielson



Deer Hunting with Jesus, Dispatches from America's Class War by Joe Bageant (Non-Fiction)

This piece of non-fiction was an eye opener for me. To quote from the jacket, "After thirty years spent scratching together a middle-class life out of a "dirt poor" childhood, Joe Bageant moved back to his hometown of Winchester, Virginia, where he realized that his family and neighbors were the very people who carried George W. Bush to victory. That was ironic,

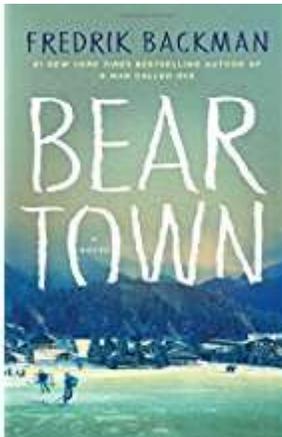
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because Winchester, like countless American small towns, is fast becoming the bedrock of a permanent underclass. Two in five of the people in his old neighborhood do not have a high school diplomas. Nearly everyone over fifty has serious health problems, and many have no health care.” Alcohol, overeating and Jesus are the choices for escaping. These Scots Irish descendants have fierce loyalties to family, church (fundamental – his brother is a Baptist pastor who casts out demons), guns and NASCAR. It’s an illuminating read. It’s funny, sad, depressing, and eloquent.

One should then read another “redneck” story afterwards – **Hillbilly Elegy by J.D. Vance**. Another Scots Irish boy that got away. Both books reference the opioid epidemic that touches their families and friends. I highly recommend these reads for a fascinating journey into America’s heartland.

Reviewed by Barrie Colbath

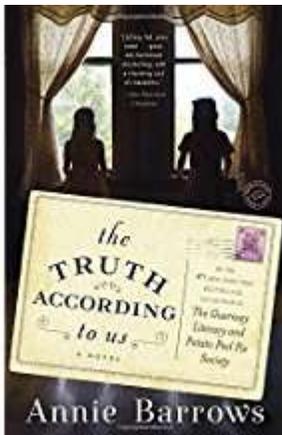
Fiction



Beartown by Frederik Backman (Contemporary Fiction)

Hockey is just a silly game. We burn, we bleed, we cry for just a few moments of transcendence. But what the hell else is life made of? Community, secrets, hopes, and courage to stand alone are in Beartown! Don't miss this newest by the author of A Man Called Ove.

Reviewed by Steve Dodge

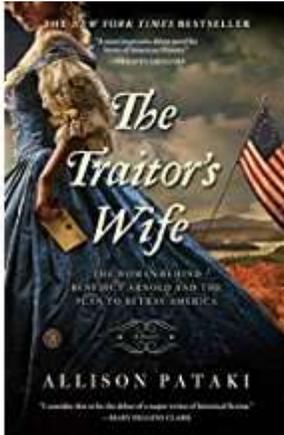


The Truth According to Us by Annie Barrows (Historical Fiction)

A compelling story set in 1938 in West Virginia about a writer for the depression era writer's program with lots of complex family dynamics on all sides. Great characters and a plot that keeps you reading. The culture and times are skillfully portrayed - well worth reading!

Reviewed by Judy Danielson

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The Traitor's Wife by Allison Pataki (Contemporary Fiction)

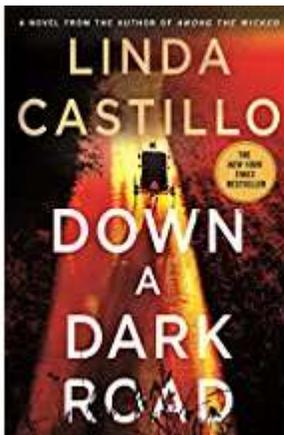
The cover says: "The woman behind Benedict Arnold and the plan to betray America".

This novel is told from the view point of the maid for socialite Peggy Shippen who becomes Mrs. Benedict Arnold. Although Clara Bell the maid is a believer in the hopes and dreams of the new country, she stays with her mistress through Peggy's youth and eventual marriage. The story begins before Peggy Shippen is married while living in PA and is a headstrong girl who loves the glamour of the British. The older Arnold, who is an American war hero, is seduced by the beauty and wit of Shippen and

they eventually marry. She is never satisfied and she ultimately lures him into his well-documented betrayal of the colonies during the Revolutionary War. Although this is a novel, many characters and events are factual. I found this debut novel interesting and well written.

(Allison Pataki is the daughter of former NY Gov. George E. Pataki.)

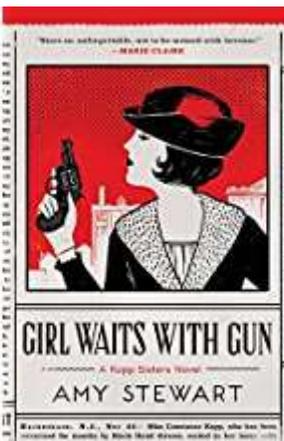
Reviewed by Connie Locashio (Winthrop)



Down a Dark Road by Linda Castillo (Suspense)

Police Chief Kate (former Amish) is held hostage with an Amish escapee and his five children. His claims of innocence in the murder of his wife lead Chief Kate on an investigation of corruption, assaults, drugs and murder. A good read!

Reviewed by Steve Dodge

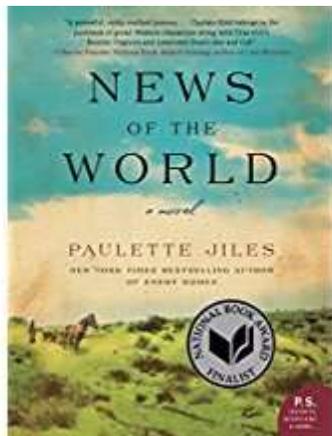


Girl Waits with Gun by Amy Stewart (Mystery)

Historical fiction story based on real events and headlines in 1914. A fun, entertaining, quick read that recreates the culture and issues of that era.

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Reviewed by Judy Danielson



News of the World by Paulette Jiles (Historical Fiction/Western)

In post-Civil War Texas, an aging itinerant "news reader" is paid 50.00 in gold pieces to return a 10 year old girl-- taken captive by the Kiowa --back to her relatives. The girl regards the Kiowa as her family. Over the course of their 400 mile journey and especially at the end there emerge many layers of meaning about what constitutes family. The gun battle--and I don't read a lot of books with gun battles--is fabulous!

Best book I've read all summer. A finalist for the National Book Award in 2016.

Reviewed by Janet Adelberg



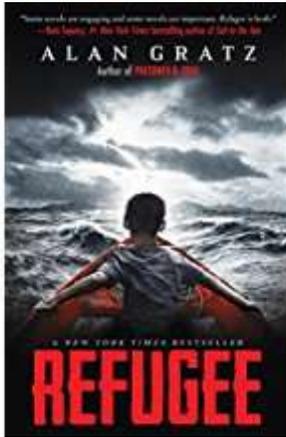
Knife Creek by Paul Doiron (Mystery/Maine Author)

Wild boars in Maine? Game warden Mike Bowditch gets tangled up in drugs, kidnapping pepper spray and shootings just to begin his day. Don't miss this one!

Reviewed by Steve Dodge

Young Adult

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Refugee by Alan Gratz (Realistic Fiction/Young Adult)

Refugee will stay with me for a long time. The author uses alternating chapters to tell the stories of Josef, a Jewish boy living in Nazi Germany; Isabel, a Cuban girl living in Castro's Cuba, and Mahmood, a Syrian boy living amidst the Civil War in Aleppo. Each story was mesmerizing as these three families set off on harrowing sea journeys (one worse than the other) to escape with their lives. The book is told through the eyes of young teens, giving it an intense immediacy. At the end, two of the families are poised to begin new lives.

Refugee was published as a Young Adult book, but I would recommend it for anyone teen and up.

Reviewed by Janet Adelberg