

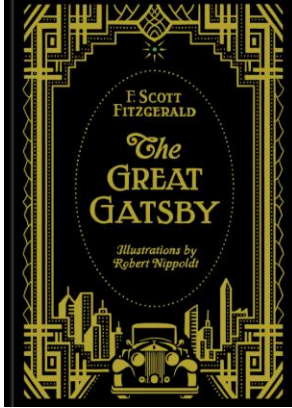
MENDON TOWNSHIP LIBRARY

BOOK CLUB 2026

READING LIST

JANUARY

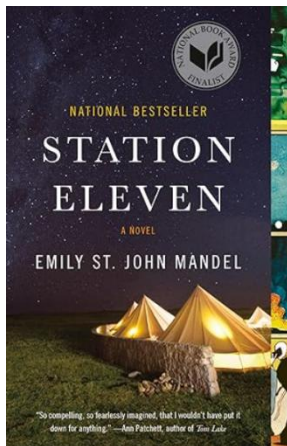
The Great Gatsby, F. Scott Fitzgerald



The Great Gatsby, a 1925 novel by F. Scott Fitzgerald, is a classic of American literature set in the Jazz Age, chronicling the tragic story of mysterious millionaire Jay Gatsby and his obsessive pursuit of his former love, Daisy Buchanan, as narrated by Nick Carraway. The book explores themes of wealth, class, love, and the corruption of the American Dream, and is famous for its evocative prose and depiction of the Roaring Twenties' culture.

FEBRUARY

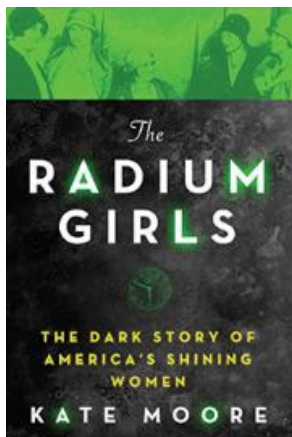
Station Eleven, Emily St. John Mandel



An audacious, darkly glittering novel set in the eerie days following civilization's collapse, *Station Eleven* tells the spellbinding story of a nomadic group of actors roaming the scattered outposts of the Great Lakes region, risking everything for art and humanity.

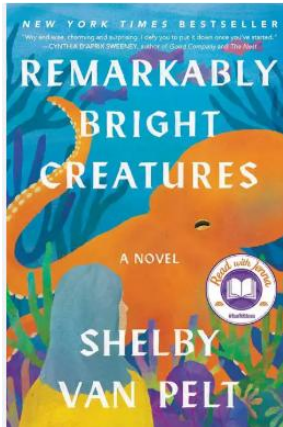
MARCH

The Radium Girls, Kate Moore



The Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America's Shining Women by Kate Moore is a non-fiction book that tells the harrowing true story of young women who worked in radium-dial factories during WWI, were poisoned by the glowing paint, and fought for justice against their employers. The book details their mysterious illnesses, the corporate cover-ups, and their groundbreaking legal battles, which led to crucial workers' rights and safety regulations. It's praised for being a heartbreaking yet inspiring account of corporate greed and the resilience of these women, written with narrative flair.

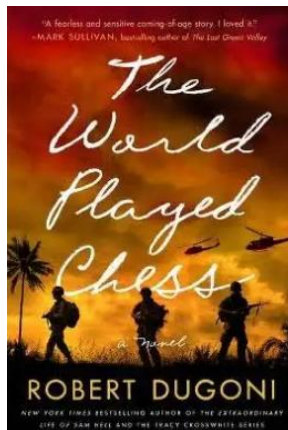
APRIL



Remarkably Bright Creatures, Shelby Van Pelt

Remarkably Bright Creatures is a debut novel by Shelby Van Pelt about a widow, Tova, who forms an unlikely friendship with a giant Pacific octopus named Marcellus at the aquarium where she works. The heartwarming story follows Tova as she copes with the loss of her son and, with Marcellus's help, uncovers the truth about his disappearance decades earlier, exploring themes of grief, loneliness, and connection.

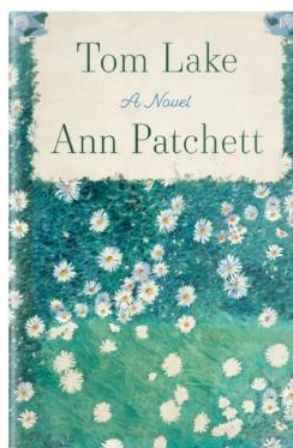
MAY



The World Played Chess, Robert Dugoni

The World Played Chess is a 2021 novel by Robert Dugoni about a young man, Vincent Bianco, who works construction with two Vietnam veterans the summer before college, learning life lessons about war, trauma (PTSD), friendship, and destiny that shape his future and his relationship with his own son decades later. The story uses flashbacks and excerpts from a veteran's journal to explore themes of coming-of-age, regret, and the lasting impact of the Vietnam War on soldiers and their families.

JUNE

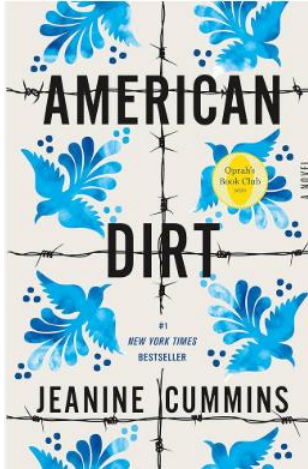


Tom Lake, Ann Patchett

Tom Lake is a 2023 novel by Ann Patchett about a mother, Lara, who tells her three daughters the story of her youthful romance with a famous actor during a summer at a theater company called Tom Lake, while they are all sheltering at the family's Michigan cherry orchard during the 2020 pandemic. The book explores themes of love (youthful, marital, and familial), memory, and the lives parents led before their children, blending past and present narratives as the daughters learn about their mother's past and reflect on their own lives. It's a story about family dynamics, nostalgia, and the quiet magic of ordinary life, praised for its emotional depth and compelling storytelling.

JULY

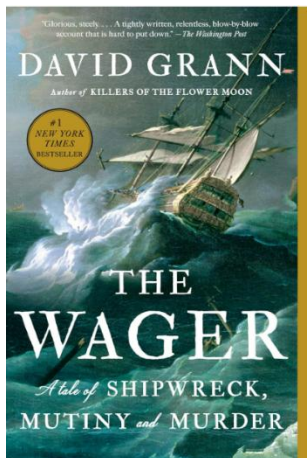
American Dirt, Jeanine Cummins



American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins is a bestselling novel about a Mexican bookseller and her son fleeing cartel violence to reach the U.S., chosen for Oprah's Book Club, but it sparked controversy over its portrayal of the migrant experience by an author of Puerto Rican and Irish descent. The story follows Lydia and her son Luca as they escape Acapulco after her journalist husband is murdered, joining the dangerous journey of other migrants heading north. While praised as a gripping thriller, it faced criticism for cultural insensitivity and clichés, leading to a major debate on writing outside one's own cultural experience.

AUGUST

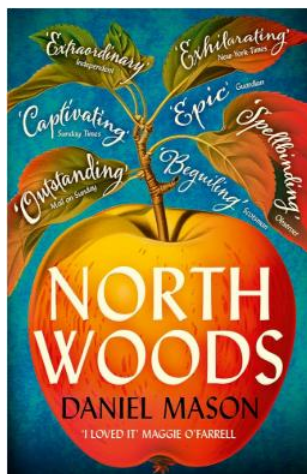
The Wager, David Grann



The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny and Murder is a bestselling nonfiction book by David Grann about the 18th-century British warship Wager, which wrecked off the coast of Patagonia, leading to a dramatic story of survival, mutiny, and a subsequent court-martial. The book details how survivors split into factions, with some claiming heroism and others accusing the captain of tyranny, culminating in a high-stakes trial that questioned the very nature of empire and human behavior under extreme duress.

SEPTEMBER

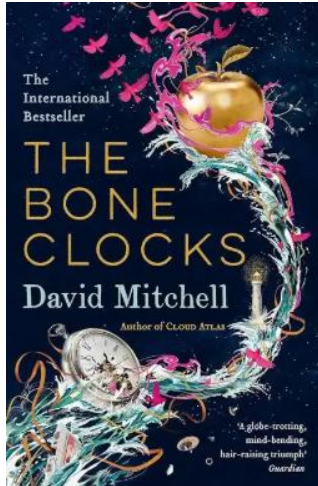
North Woods, Daniel Mason



North Woods by Daniel Mason is a historical fiction novel that tells the story of a single house in a New England forest over several centuries, following the lives of its many inhabitants, from Puritan settlers to modern-day figures, with the house itself acting as a central, silent witness to history, nature, and human drama. The book is known for its unique, genre-bending structure, with each chapter shifting in form (e.g., letters, field notes, ghost stories) and perspective, sometimes told through the eyes of animals or insects, exploring themes of love, loss, and the interconnectedness of time and nature.

OCTOBER

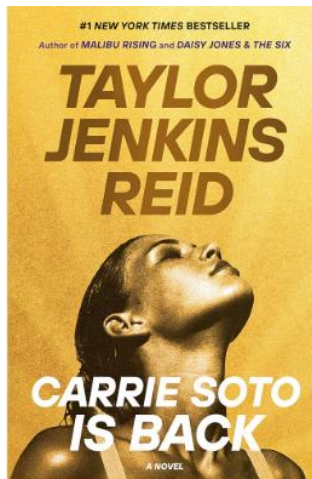
The Bone Clocks, David Mitchell



The Bone Clocks is a 2014 novel by David Mitchell that follows several characters across different time periods, linked by a supernatural war between two immortal factions, the Anchorites and the Horologists, with the story loosely centered on the psychic teenager Holly Sykes. The title refers to the mortal humans, whose "bone clocks" are ticking down to death, a concept central to the conflict between the immortals. The book is known for its shifting perspectives, blending genres like fantasy, science fiction, and drama, and was longlisted for the Man Booker Prize.

NOVEMBER

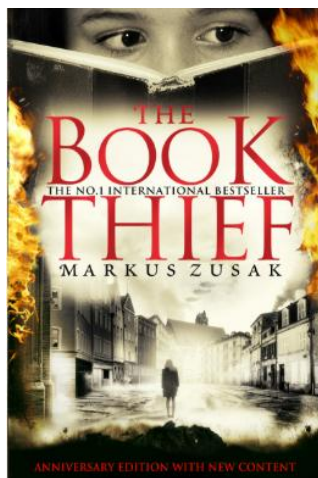
Carrie Soto is Back, Taylor Jenkins Reid



Carrie Soto Is Back is a 2022 novel by Taylor Jenkins Reid about a legendary, retired tennis player who comes out of retirement at age 37 to reclaim her world record from a younger player, Nicki Chan, with her father as her coach for one last season. The book explores themes of ambition, the cost of greatness, and the double standards women face in sports, focusing on Carrie's fierce determination, her complex relationship with her father, and her rivalry with Nicki. It's a standalone novel but features a character from Reid's Malibu Rising and is set to be adapted into a Netflix series.

DECEMBER

The Book Thief, Markus Zusak



The Book Thief by Markus Zusak is a historical fiction novel set in Nazi Germany, narrated by Death, that follows a young girl named Liesel Meminger as she steals books and learns to read, finding solace and resistance in words amidst the horrors of WWII, particularly after her foster family hides a Jewish man in their basement. The story explores themes of love, loss, and the power of storytelling through Liesel's experiences with her foster parents, Hans and Rosa Hubermann, and her friend Rudy Steiner, as she shares her stolen books with her community.