

ARRT Book Chat
August 6, 2020
Virtual Zoom Meeting

Due to COVID-19 and the change to everyone's work schedules and ability to meet in person, we are suspending the Narrative Nonfiction Genre Study and will relaunch it in the future when appropriate.

For now, ARRT wants to focus on stress relief, community, and readers advisory. We are hosting a BYOB (Bring Your Own Book) program. Participants can bring any title they would like to share with the group (any genre, fiction/nonfiction, media, etc.). Each participant will have 90 seconds to booktalk the appeal of the book.

ARRT strongly encourages sharing diverse books, especially #ownvoices titles, so we will be practicing progressive stacking at our book chats. Titles that are written by, or reflect stories of, people from marginalized groups will be discussed first.

What we read:

The Fifth Season by N.K. Jemisin: afro-futurism, fantasy, uncertain world, skilled at world-building, gritty yet lyrical prose.

The City We Became by N.K. Jemisin: fantasy, great setting, NYC is brought to life, audiobook narration and sound effects evoke authentic setting.

-For fans of *American Gods*.

Wow, No Thank You by Samantha Irby: fourth collection of essays, humorous, frank, edgy/raw, very open about physical and mental health issues.

-See also: *We Are Never Meeting in Real Life*, for fans of Lindy West or maybe David Sedaris.

Mexican Gothic by Silvia Moreno-Garcia: gothic horror, haunted house, creepy tone and atmosphere, slow building, Mexico setting, explores themes of race and colonialism, good choice for book discussions.

-Similar to *She* by H. Rider Haggard or *Get Out*.

A Virtuous Ruby by Piper Huguley: African American historical romance/Christian fiction set in 1915, characters are very well developed, setting and details feel accurate, accessible writing style.

Well-Read Black Girl: Finding Our Stories, Discovering Ourselves by Glory Edim: essays by Black female writers about the importance of recognizing themselves in literature.

Saving Ruby King by Catherine Adel West

Take a Hint Dani Brown by Talia Hibbert: 2nd in Brown Sisters romance series, heroine wants friends w/benefits relationship with no attachments, obstacles faced by a new couple, diverse, relatable characters, humorous, frank language, difficult issues presented in a way that's not too heavy.

-Read alike for *Girl Gone Viral* by Alisha Rai

Relentless Moon by Mary Robinette Kowal: #3 in Lady Astronaut series, alternate history with female astronauts, addresses issues like anxiety and eating disorders

-Read alike for *Sevener* by Neal Stephenson, *Rocket Men* by Robert Kurson, *Retrieval Artists* series by Kristine Kathryn Rusch, and *Hidden Figures*

Vegan Cookbooks:

Chetna's Healthy Indian by Chetna Makan

Rachel Ama's Vegan Eats by Rachel Ama

Ageless Vegan by Tracye Lynn McQuirter

Sweet Potato Soul by Jenne Claiborne

Vegan 100 by Gaz Oakley

Indian-ish by Priya Krishna

The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett: two light-skinned African American sisters living in a small town leave home, one sister embraces her African American heritage and the other passes herself off as white.

-See also *The Mothers*

Peace Talks by Jim Butcher: #16 in Harry Dresden Files

Anxious People by Fredrik Backman

Home Before Dark by Riley Sager

The All-Night Sun by Diane Zinna: literary fiction, grief, coping with grief through art, beautiful setting, great descriptions of art, hopeful ending

Rodham by Curtis Sittenfeld: funny, imaginative, "fan-fiction"

-See also: *The American Wife*

Chronicles of a Radical Hag by Lorna Landvik: main character/newspaper columnist is in a coma, coming of age, small-town feel, feel good, humorous, leisurely pace, delightful characters

-Read alikes for *Kitchens of the Great Midwest* or the *Lager Queen of Minnesota* by J. Ryan Stradahl

Once and Future Witches by Alix Harrow: historical, twisty-ending, out in October

Hench by Natalie Walschots: superheroes/supervillains, temps working for supervillains, fun, out in September

The Heart: Frida Kahlo in Paris by Marc Petitjean: nonfiction, Paris, art history, family saga, love affair, pre-WWII

Pre-Raphaelit Girl Gang: Fifty Makers, Shakers and Heartbreakers from the Victorian Era by Kirsty Stonewall Walker

You Can't Touch My Hair: And Other Things I Still Have to Explain by Phoebe Robinson: debut essays by comedian, social commentary on racism, sexism, being Black in America, pop culture, etc.

-Try Two Dope Queens podcast or Two White Guys podcast or Samantha Irby

Lessons from Lucy by Dave Barry: nonfiction, dog teaching author how to live life as they grow old, candid writing, humorous

Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents by Isabel Wilkerson

Check Please by Ngozi Ukazu

With the Fire on High by Elizabeth Acevedo!

The Boyfriend Project by Farrah Rochon

Red White & Royal Blue by Casey McQuiston

Too Much and Never Enough by Mary Trump

The Overdue Life of Amy Byler by Kelly Harms

Pandemics/Post-apocalyptic:

Great Influenza by John Barry (NF)

The Ghost Map by Steven Johnson (NF)

Survivor Song by Paul Tremblay

Devolution by Max Brooks

The Wanderers by Chuck Wendig

How We Live Now: Scenes from the Pandemic by Bill Hayes

Intimations by Zadie Smith

Hollow Kingdom by Kira Jane Buxton

Other media:

Romance in the Stacks FB page

Art Journal Junkies FB page

Levar Burton Reads podcast

Last Chance U (Netflix)

-Try Cheer (Netflix), Friday Night Lights

Dirty John

Outer Banks (Netflix)

Babysitter's Club (Netflix)

Beastars (anime on Netflix)--Zootopia for adults and older teens

