

March 23, 2023

Nonna Maria and the Case of the Missing Bride

By: Lorenzo Carcaterra



Recommended by: Gayle
Nonna Maria has lived on Ischia, an island in the Gulf of Naples, her entire life. Recognizable by the widow's black she's worn every day for decades, she always has pasta on the stove and espresso in the pot for the neighbors who stop by to ask her advice on life and love. Everyone knows her, and she knows everyone's business. So, if

something goes wrong, islanders look to her, not the local carabinieri, to find the solution.

When a recently engaged woman confesses that she's afraid her fiancé, a stranger to Ischia with a murky past, might not be who he seems, Nonna Maria helps her disappear so she can investigate the true nature of her betrothed. The stranger has also raised the suspicions of Captain Murino of the carabinieri, but he's occupied investigating the death of a tour boat captain who drowned in the wee hours of the morning. Captain Murino believes it was an accident, but Nonna Maria knows the man was a born sailor and too good a swimmer to drown, no matter how much wine he might have drunk. While Captain Murino has his hands full, she pours herself a glass of white wine and gets to work, even though getting involved will expose her to the dangers lurking just beneath the surface of her idyllic home.

(From: Bookreporter.com)

Book Selection Party
April 27, 2023 ~ 5:00 pm
In Library's Community Room



Reading Circle Information

The first meeting of the "Reading Circle" was held on Oct. 24, 2002. The circle has usually met, once a month, since that date. It is a group for any adult who likes to read and would enjoy sharing opinions while discussing a book. The goal is to discuss new books, classics and favorite authors. And to have fun!

Meetings are usually held on the 4th Thursday of the month in the **Library Community Room**

From: 5:30 – 6:45 PM

For More Information

Call: (315)-341-5867

Or check website:

www.oswegopubliclibrary.org

Reading Circle



Oswego Public Library

Website – www.oswegopubliclibrary.org

Reading Circle



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Book Selections For
September 2022
to
March 2023

September 22, 2022

The Boy Who harnessed the Wind

By: William Kamkwamba

Recommended by Mary M.

William Kamkwamba was born in Malawi, a country where magic ruled and modern science was mystery. It was also a land withered by drought and hunger. But William had read about windmills, and he dreamed of building one that would bring to his small village a set of luxuries that only 2 percent of Malawians could enjoy: electricity and running water. His neighbors called him misala – crazy – but William refused to let go of his dreams. With a small pile of once-forgotten science textbooks; some scrap metal, tractor parts, and bicycle halves; and an armory of curiosity and determination, he embarked on a daring plan to forge an unlikely contraption and small miracle that would change the lives around him. *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* is a remarkable true story about human inventiveness and its power to overcome crippling adversity. It will inspire anyone who doubts the power of one individual's ability to change his community and better the lives of those around him. (From: HarperCollins Publishers description)

October 27, 2022

The Next Ship Home: A Novel of Ellis Island

By: Heather Webb

Recommended by Mary Ann

New York City, 1902. Alma Brauer is newly employed as an aspiring interpreter at Ellis Island when she meets Italian immigrant Francesca Ricci. When Francesca faces deportation before she can even set foot off the island, Alma feels compelled to help her beyond the limits of her job, even though she has been warned not to get attached to the immigrants. Desperate to escape her awful home life in Italy, will Francesca be permitted to leave the island and realize her dream of living in America? After months or even years of saving money for the voyage and weeks living in squalor aboard a ship, "Here, at Ellis Island, all of their fright, courage, and --- most of all --- hope, funneled into this one moment: passing through the registry office, to the stairwell, the exit to their freedom, and to possibilities of which they could only dream before now." Having visited Ellis Island myself and been in awe of the Statue of Liberty, I was easily transported to the places mentioned in THE NEXT SHIP HOME. What these immigrants endured was beyond awful as they were poked, prodded and interrogated upon arrival, oftentimes in a language they did not understand. It's no wonder that Ellis Island was nicknamed the Island of Tears.

(From: Book Reporter Review by Rebecca Wasniak)

December 15, 2022

Winter House By: Carol O'Connell

Recommended by Bonny

No mystery author I've read writes with more truthful emotional intensity about family issues than Carol O'Connell in her peerless Kathy Mallory series. It's a complicated story, one in which the hard-hearted Mallory, warm-hearted Riker and downright mushy Butler are often at odds as they track historic murders, old and new financial arrangements and just where the heck Nedda's been all these decades. The story is held together by O'Connell's usual witty, bravura writing, and by emotional power almost never found in other mysteries.

The brilliance of this novel is in the exploration of the feelings and motives of Nedda and Bitty, especially, and how they influence the Mallory/Riker/ Butler team. O'Connell fans, who've come to expect a lot from her, will still be knocked out by this one.

(Reviewed by John Orr <https://triviana.com/books/mystery/oconn3.htm>)

"Dubious deeds are just the tip of the ice pick in the hands of O'Connell. Vivid prose keeps the pages turning in this intricate tale of betrayal [and] buried secrets." – *Publishers Weekly*



January 26, 2023

A Curious Beginning By: Deanna Raybourn

Recommended by Gayle

Set in 1887, this sparkling first in a new Victorian series from bestseller Raybourn (*The Dark Inquiry* and four other Lady Julia Grey mysteries) introduces 25-year-old Veronica Speedwell, who as an illegitimate child lived an itinerant existence with two female guardians. After returning home from the funeral of the last of her guardians, Veronica foils an abduction attempt with the assistance of an elderly stranger, Baron Maximilian von Stauffenbach, who remembers the mother Veronica knows nothing about. At the urging of the baron, who warns her that she's in mortal danger for reasons he can't yet reveal, she hides at the London home of reclusive natural historian Revelstoke "Stoker" Templeton-Vane. When the baron is murdered, Veronica and Stoker embark on a journey marked by present perils and past secrets. The intrepid Veronica's witty narration ("I abhorred weakness of any kind but most particularly in my tea") and the sexual tension she shares with the equally eccentric and articulate Stoker deliver a fun read with promises of more to come. (From: Publisher's Weekly Review)

February 23, 2023

Kindred By: Octavia E. Butler

Recommended by Karen S.

"She created vivid new worlds to reveal truths about our own" Butler takes time travel, one of speculative fiction's oldest and most overdone premises, and infuses it with lasting depth and power. Where stories about American slavery are often gratuitous, reducing its horror to explicit violence and brutality, "Kindred" is controlled and precise.

Butler stages slavery as a site of pain and violation as well as community and resilience. Dana, the protagonist, slips back and forth against her will between her life in 1976 Los Angeles and a Maryland plantation before the Civil War. In Butler's hands, the slaves and slave owners Dana meets – and befriends, nurtures, protects and betrays – become individuals rather than historical abstractions. The book is a marvel of imagination, empathy and detail, speculative fiction at its best. (From: NYT, The Essential Octavia Butler)

"This powerful novel about a modern black woman transported back in time to a slave plantation in the antebellum South is the perfect introduction to Butler's work and perspectives for those not usually enamored of science fiction. A harrowing, haunting story.~ John Marshall, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*