

Book Group
AAUW - Southern New Hampshire Branch
Book Blurbs 2019-2020

Please contact the Book Group Coordinators for location of meeting.

August 12, 2019 **[date change]**

An evening to share what you have been reading over the summer.

October 7, 2019

There, There by Tommy Orange

This is a debut novel following twelve characters from Native communities: all traveling to the Big Oakland Powwow, all connected to each other in ways they may not yet realize. These characters tell of the plight of the urban Native American—grappling with a complex and painful history.

November 4, 2019

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens

A painfully beautiful novel that is at once a murder mystery, a coming-of-age narrative and a celebration of nature. Owens here surveys the desolate marshlands of the North Carolina coast through the eyes of an abandoned child. And in her isolation that child makes us open our own eyes to the secret wonders—and dangers—of her private world.

January 6, 2020

Mr. Penumbra 24-Hour Bookstore by Robin Sloan

A young unemployed web designer, a mysterious bookseller, odd “members” who check out, but don’t buy books. Part love letter to books, part technological meditation, part thrilling adventure, part requiem.

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March 2, 2020

Closest Companion: The Unknown Story of the Intimate Relationship Between Franklin Roosevelt and Margaret Suckley by Geoffrey C. Ward

After Margaret Suckley (Miss Daisy), a distant cousin and close companion of Franklin D. Roosevelt, passed away in 1991, a preservation group found a battered suitcase under her bed; it was filled with her diaries and correspondence with FDR, detailing their deep friendship. The author of this book includes the letters and diaries, speculating on the nature of the friendship. This book was the inspiration for the movie *Hyde Park on the Hudson*.

April 6, 2020

The Beantown Girls by Jane Healey.

During WWII, the Red Cross sent Clubmobiles into the field to raise the morale of the soldiers. When recruiting volunteers, the Red Cross selected women of a certain age & personality who were college graduates; the women had to be more than 'just a pretty face.' In addition to making and serving the gallons of coffee & thousands of donuts from their truck at field military bases, they had to learn how to drive the truck and be able to fix it if it broke down on the road. This story follows three women from Boston to England, and then to the European theatre. Their challenges along the way are daunting, and their heroism led to their receiving the Bronze Star.

May 4, 2020

Educated by Tara Westover

Powerful memoir of Tara's journey to escape from her very controlling survivalist parents living in an isolated area in mountainous Idaho. As a 17-year old she goes to school for the first time and finishes high school before going on to college then attends both Harvard and Cambridge. As a well educated woman she wonders if she's traveled too far and was there still a way home?

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June 1, 2020

The Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America's Shining Women

by Kate Moore

The story of girls, employed in painting dials for watches and equipment with radium paint, without any knowledge of the dangers to which they were being exposed, and their fight for justice in the courts.