

Book Group
AAUW - Southern New Hampshire Branch
Book Blurbs 2020-2021

November 2, 2020

The Radium Girls by Kate Moore

A compelling chronicle of women whose work maimed and killed them while their employers, their doctors, and their government turned a blind eye to their suffering. The story of real women at the mercy of businesses who see them only as a potential risk to the bottom line is haunting precisely because of how little has changed; the glowing ghosts of the radium girls haunt us still.

January 4, 2021

Saints for all Occasions by Courtney Sullivan

Nora and Theresa Flynn are twenty-one and seventeen when they leave their small village in Ireland and journey to America. Nora is engaged to a man she isn't sure that she loves. Theresa is thrilled by their new life in Boston. But when Theresa ends up pregnant, Nora is forced to come up with a plan—a decision with repercussions they are both far too young to understand. Fifty years later, Nora is the matriarch of a big Catholic family with four grown children. After decades of silence, a sudden death forces Nora and Theresa to confront the choices they made so long ago. Sullivan's writing is beautiful and thought provoking.

March 1, 2021

The Moment of Lift by Melinda Gates

This narrative is backed by data as Melinda presents the issues from child marriage to lack of access to contraceptives to gender inequity in the workplace. And, for the first time, she writes about her personal life and the road to equality in her own marriage. Throughout, she shows how there has never been more opportunity to change the world—and ourselves.

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April 5, 2021

The Dutch House by Ann Patchett

The Dutch House explores the indelible bond between two siblings, the house of their childhood and a past that will not let them go. It digs deeply into questions of inheritance, love and forgiveness, of how we want to see ourselves and who we really are. This book group read Patchett's *Bel Canto* some years ago

May 3, 2021

The Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead

Winner of the 2020 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, *The Nickel Boys* is based on the real story of a reform school in Jim Crow-era Florida. It operated for 111 years and warped the lives of thousands of children. This is a devastating and driven narrative.

June 7, 2021

The Beekeeper of Aleppo by Christy Lefteri

Moving, powerful, compassionate, and beautifully written, *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* is a testament to the triumph of the human spirit. It is the kind of book that reminds us of the power of storytelling. " Nuri is a beekeeper; his wife, Afra, an artist. They live a simple life, rich in family and friends, in the beautiful Syrian city of Aleppo--until the unthinkable happens.