

Book Chat Notes-June 6, 2019

(with generous help from Amazon)

**The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek** by Kim Michel Richardson. (Novel based on the real Pack Horse Library project in the 1930s in Kentucky. Brave woman rode perilous routes to deliver books to isolated homes in the hills. The book is also the story (based in fact) of the blue people of the area who were discriminated against. Tough read, but so powerful. Richardson is also the author of **The Sisters of Glass Ferry** which is about Kentucky moonshine on the Kentucky River and the disappearance of a young girl and the twin she leaves behind.)

**Palace Walk** by Naguib Mafouz (The Cairo Trilogy Vol. 1) **Palace of Desire** Vol. 2 and **Sugar Street** Vol. 3. Fascinating cultural difference of a family in Cairo, Egypt

**Being Dead is No Excuse: The Official Southern Ladies Guide to Hosting the Perfect Funeral** by Gayden Metcalfe (Nonfiction about the community of women of the Mississippi Delta including recipes)

**Language of the Thread: a novel** by Gail Tsukiyami (Several books in the series; **Women of the Silk** (the first book), **A Hundred Flowers**, **The Street of a Thousand Blossoms**. (Young girl in China in the silk house.)

**The Library Book** by Susan Orlean (nonfiction story of the arson fire of the Los Angeles Library April 28, 1986) Orlean is the author of the best-selling **The Orchid Thief**.

**West with the Night: a Memoir** by Beryl Markham (She would spend most of the rest of her life in East Africa as an adventurer, a racehorse trainer, and an

aviatrix—she became the first person to fly nonstop from Europe to America, the first woman to fly solo east to west across the Atlantic.)

**Where the Crawdads Sing** by Delia Owens (A first novel set in the North Carolina marsh country. A young girl is left to survive on her own. Her story is twined around the mysterious death of local young man.)

**The Blue Bottle Club** by Penelope J. Stokes (Four girls write their dreams on pieces of paper and tuck them into a blue bottle. The bottle left in an attic is discovered decades later by a reporter who will search the secrets of the Blue Bottle Club.)

**Winter's Bone** by Daniel Woodrell (Ree Dolly's father has skipped bail on charges that he ran a crystal meth lab, and the Dollys will lose their house if he doesn't show up for his next court date. With two young brothers depending on her, 16-year-old Ree knows she must bring her father back, dead or alive. Set in the Ozarks. Beautiful prose but a very harsh subject. Jennifer Lawrence stars in the movie.)

**The Awakening Land, Anthology** by Conrad Richter (The Trees, The Fields, The Town. Traces the transformation of a middle-American landscape from wilderness to farmland to the site of modern industrial civilization, all in the lifetime of one character. It follows the varied fortunes of Sayward Lockett and her family in southeastern Ohio. Very moving)

**The Stranger in the Woods: The Extraordinary Story of the Last True Hermit** by Michael Finkel. (Nonfiction. Journalist Finkel interviews Christopher Knight who left his home in Massachusetts, drove to Maine, and disappeared into the woods. He would not have a conversation with another person for the next twenty-seven years. Compelling story of a man determined to live his own way. June selection for Belleville Library Book Club.)

**Messenger of Truth** by Jacqueline Winspear (A Maisie Dobbs novel. Set in 1931 London murder mystery. Following on the bestselling **Pardonable Lies**, Jacqueline Winspear delivers another vivid, thrilling, and utterly unique episode in the life of Maisie Dobbs.

**This Fallen Prey** by Kelley Armstrong (Casey arrives at the off-the-grid town, an isolated community built as a haven for people running from their pasts, she had no idea what to expect, with no cell phones, no internet, no mail, and no way of getting in or out without the town council's approval. She certainly didn't expect to be the homicide detective on two separate cases or to begin a romantic relationship with her boss. The first book in the series is **City of the Lost: A Rockton Novel.**)

**Mississippi Blood: The Natchez Burning Trilogy** by Greg Iles (**The Bone Tree** and **Natchez Burning** are the next books. Set in current modern-day Natchez, Mississippi—Greg Iles's epic tale of love and honor, hatred and revenge that explores how the sins of the past continue to haunt the present. There are more novels about the Penn Cage character.)

**The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fist Fight in Heaven** by Sherman Alexie (Short stories of life on the Spokane Indian Reservation. The movie **Smoke Signals** is based on these stories. Very funny and very sad.)

**Before We Were Yours: a Novel** by Lisa Wingate (Set in Memphis 1939. Five siblings are wrenched from their home and taken to the Tennessee Children's Home Society orphanage. Based on one of America's most notorious real-life scandals—in which Georgia Tann, director of a Memphis-based adoption organization, kidnapped and sold poor children to wealthy families all over the country.)

We talked about the online resource **bookriot.com**. **Book Riot** is bookish site covering all things literary, from book news and commentary to reading

recommendations across every genre. It is free and you get daily suggestions. I have found so many good books here.