

2020 Bookies Book Discussion Group

Bookies is held the third Wednesday of the month at 9:30am in the Ames Room.

- January 15 ***A Place for Us*** by Fatima Farheen Mirza
This contemporary novel of identity and belonging follows an Indian family brought back together by a wedding. From the parents' challenges in coming to the U.S. to the children's struggles in straddling two cultures, it's a tender-hearted look at a unique American family. Named one of the Best Books of 2018 by the Washington Post, NPR and People.
- February 19 ***The Girl Who Was Taken*** by Charlie Donlea – **Author Appearance**
A haunting thriller, full of twists and tension, follows a forensic pathologist determined to find answers about the fate of her missing sister - and the classmate who actually shows up alive. Come meet author Charlie Donlea of Cary to get an inside look into this gripping mystery – and hear his story of transforming from a doctor to a mystery writer.
- March 18 ***The One Man*** by Andrew Gross (**Also Thursday, March 19 at 7 p.m.**)
The Nazis have captured a physics professor, but have no idea that he is one of only two people in the world with information that could end the war. In Washington, DC, an intelligence officer is sent on a dangerous assignment: sneak into Auschwitz to escape with that One Man. Named one of Library Journal's 2018 Best Thrillers.
- April 15 ***White Houses*** by Amy Bloom
Eleanor Roosevelt is brought to life through the eyes of trail-blazing journalist Lorena "Hick" Hickok in this historical novel. Bloom captures the affection the women felt for each other and their hidden love story against the backdrop of world-changing events, back-room politics and life in the White House.
- May 20 ***Bluebird, Bluebird*** by Attica Locke (**Also Thursday, May 21 at 7 p.m.**)
An African American Texas Ranger finds himself at a crossroads investigating two murders – a black lawyer from Chicago and a local white woman – in a small town with an explosive history. He struggles for justice in this tale of racism, hatred, and, surprisingly, love. Winner of the 2018 Edgar Award and Anthony Award for Best Novel.
- June 17 ***The Children Act*** by Ian McEwan - **Read the Book, Watch the Movie**
A judge must decide whether a sick child who is a Jehovah's Witness can be forced to undergo a blood transfusion to save his life. The struggles of the parents, the child and the judge are portrayed with compassion in this moving novel. Emma Thompson stars as the judge in the movie.
- July 15 ***Hidden Figures*** by Margot Lee Shetterly (**non-fiction**)
Before John Glenn orbited the earth, a group of dedicated female mathematicians known as "human computers" used pencils, slide rules and adding machines to calculate the numbers that would launch rockets into space. Among these were the exceptionally talented African American women profiled in this fascinating look at little-known history.

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- August 19 ***The Women in the Castle*** by Jessica Shattuck
Amid the ashes of Nazi Germany's defeat, Marianne von Lingenfels returns to the once-grand castle of her husband's ancestors. The widow of a resister murdered in a failed plot to assassinate Hitler, Marianne plans to uphold the promise she made to her husband's brave conspirators: find and protect their wives, her fellow resistance widows.
- September 16 ***Where the Crawdads Sing*** by Delia Owens
A lyrical portrayal of a young girl's coming of age in the North Carolina marshes. Kya Clark, who mostly raises herself in the isolated wilderness, ends up in the middle of a murder investigation in 1969. Nominated for Goodreads Best Historical Fiction and the Edgar Award for Best First Novel.
- October 21 ***Chicago*** by David Mamet **(Also Thursday, October 22 at 7 p.m.)**
This Prohibition era thriller is by the Oscar-nominated screenwriter of *The Untouchables* – and features Mamet's electric dialogue and fast pace. It's a tough saga of gangsters, corrupt officials and hard-drinking newspapermen that mixes fictional and historical characters, including Al Capone.
- November 18 ***The Book Thief*** by Markus Zusak **(Reading with Forever Young Adult Book Club)**
This modern-day classic set in 1939 Nazi Germany introduces Liesel Meminger, a girl scratching out a meager existence outside Munich. Her life lights up when she learns to read – and she becomes desperate for books. Her fate is tied up with her accordion-playing foster father, a Jewish man in hiding, and, of course, death. Voted #14 in the 2018 PBS Great American Read.