

RWTO Summer Reading List 2022: as shared by members of St. Thomas Elgin Branch

Lilac Girls by Martha Hall Kelly – historical fiction based on real life heroine and the unsung heroics of women during WWII

State of Terror by Louise Penny & Hilary Clinton – political history novel

The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah – historical fiction set in the Dust Bowl during the great depression.

The Rose Code by Kate Quinn – historical fiction about 3 women who are codebreakers at Bletchley Park during WWII

The Little Shop of Found Things and Secret of the Chocolate House both by Paula Brackston – fictional blend of magic and romance

The Linnet Bird – Linda Holeman – historical fiction set in British India

A Song for the Dark Times by Ian Rankin – 23rd novel of the Inspector Rebus mystery series

The Warmth of Other Suns by Isabel Wilkerson – details the migration of nearly 6 million Blacks from the Jim Crow south of the U.S. A.

Malibu Rising by Taylor Jenkins Reid – historical and psychological fiction

A Good Wife by Samra Zafar – memoir of an Iranian girl who escapes an arranged marriage and builds a new life

Educated by Tara Westover – memoir about a Mormon fundamentalist/survivalist family

Sooley by John Grisham – sports/adventure fiction

The Plot Against America by Philip Roth – an alternate American history told through the eyes of a working-class Jewish family

Five Little Indians by Michelle Good – explores the damage done to five former Residential School students from B.C. – winner of Canada Reads 2022

The Giver of Stars by Jojo Moyes – fictional account of 5 women who become travelling librarians to deliver books in rural Kentucky based on a real program by Eleanor Roosevelt

Life Span: Why We Age and Why We Don't Have To – David Sinclair – Non-fiction

Any Louise Penny Books but begin with ***Fatal Grace*** – mystery

American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins – story of a Mexican woman who flees her country after most of her family is gunned down by a drug cartel and her journey to cross the U.S. border

Unbroken by Lauren Millenbrand – based on the true story of an Olympic athlete and his experience during WWII – story of resilience, redemption and heroism.

The Great Alone by Kristin Hannah – fictional story of a veteran of Vietnam who return to his family forever altered by PTSD, who moves them to Alaska to survive in the wilderness

The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo – struggling journalist interviews a faded celebrity from the 1960's and tells the story of wanting to be seen beyond the celebrity

When the Apricots Bloom by Gina Wilkinson – story of 3 young women in Saddam Hussein's Iraq, based on the real-life experiences of one of the women.

The Authenticity Project by Clare Pooley – entertaining light read about one person's attempt to create real and authentic communication between a group a random people

The Clockmaker's Daughter by Kate Morton – historical fiction that involves a love affair and a murder and transcends generations to the present day

Diamond Eye by Kate Quinn – historical fiction based on a real-life woman who was a Russian sniper during World War II

The Forgotten Daughter by Joanne Goodman – story of two women divided by their past – a portrait of true love, familial bonds, and persistence in the face of injustice

Maisie Dobbs (Book 1 in a 17-book series – must be read in order) – mystery
A Sunlit Weapon (Book # 17 in series) by Jaqueline Winspear

The Forest of Vanishing Stars by Kirstin Harmel – historical fiction set in WWII

The Henna Artist and sequel *The Secret Keeper of Jaipur* by Alka Joshi – story about a woman and her family and their lives within the rigid caste system in India and her strength

The Space Between Us & The Secrets Between Us by Thrity Umrigar – set-in modern-day India and the experiences and relationship between two women of different classes

Churchill's Secret Messenger by Alan Hlad – historical fiction of a woman drafted into the special operations to conduct espionage in Nazi occupied France

Daughters of the Deer by Danielle Daniel – historical fiction set in New France about the marriage between an Algonquin woman and a French soldier and how they navigate the two cultures, and the eventual conflict with having a two-spirit daughter.

A House in the Sky by Amanda Lindhout – memoir of the Canadian woman kidnapped and held hostage in Somalia for over a year and how she survived

The Maid by Neta Prose – murder mystery about an autistic maid who must learn to navigate the world without the guidance of her grandmother who raised her.

Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman – funny mystery about 4 seniors who try to solve a murder that takes place in an upscale retirement home

The Firekeepers Daughter by Angeline Boulley – takes place on an island reserve near Sault St. Marie about a girl with mixed heritage, drugs and native culture

The Spoon Stealer by Lesley Crew – life story of a girl from Nova Scotia during WWII who ends up in Britain...funny and poignant.

Finding Chika by Mitch Albom, who shares his life changing experience of raising a Haitian orphan after the devastating earthquake in that country

A Train in Winter by Caroline Moorehead – story of women, friendship and resistance in Nazi occupied France

The German House by Annette Hess – story set around the Frankfurt Auschwitz trials of 1963

