

RWTO Summer Reading List Recommendations 2023

Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate. Story about 2 women, one in the present, one from the past, who are connected by a family history of illegal adoptions and child trafficking in the Southern U.S.A.

The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michele Richardson. Story set in Appalachia Kentucky in the 1930's about a 19 year old Cussy Mary Carter, a Pack Horse Librarian with a genetic condition that turns her skin blue, and the prejudice and racism she encounters, despite the liking and respect people for her as a librarian.

Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus. Realistic fiction set in the 60's, with Elizabeth Zott, an educated chemist, in a male-dominated field, will not be undeterred and is a champion for women despite many setbacks. The female lead character is a strong, independent, determined, resourceful woman and the plot is original and witty.

It Ends With Us (read first) It Starts with Us (read second) by Colleen Hoover. Story about how to end violence and be a strong woman/mother/friend. An easy read but thought provoking about relationships and domestic violence.

The Unfinished Palazzo by Judith Mackrell (non-fiction). Story of the history of a palazzo on the Grand Canal in Venice, owned by three unique women. Today it is a museum created by the third owner, Peggy Guggenheim.

West with Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge. An emotion, rousing novel inspired by the incredible true story of two giraffes who made headlines and won the hearts of Depression era America.

The Night Portrait by Laura Morelli. Set during World War II and based on the true story of the artwork taken by Nazis and recovered at the end of the war by brave art workers. Gives lots of unknown details about this side of the war.

The Paris Library by Janet Skeslien Charles. Historical fiction based on World War II and the story of heroic librarians at the American Library in Paris and their work to protect books.

American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins. Realistic fiction story of an immigrant mother and son fleeing a Mexican drug cartel.

The Rose Code by Kate Quinn. Story about the women who worked as code breakers in WWII.

The Lighthouse Keepers Daughter by Hazel Baynor. Historical fiction inspired by the true events of courageous women lighthouse keepers over the last two hundred years.

The Many Daughters of Afong Moy by Jamie Ford. Story about 7 generations of Chinese women in the USA and how they are all linked and connected.

Jana De Leon was recommended as an author and any of her series of books.

The Book of Lost Names by Kristen Harmel. WWII historical fiction about the bravery of people during the war to protect those who could not protect themselves. A German Jew, fleeing the Nazis becomes a forger for those also fleeing.

Indigo Girl by Natasha Boyd. Historical fiction set in 1700's South Carolina about a 16 year old girl who defies all expectations to achieve her dreams.

Wish You Were Here by Jodi Piccoult. A great adventure story set during COVID so very timely.

When Crickets Cry by Charles Martin. A book with charming characters and many plot twists, and a beautiful story.

Long Bright River by Liz Moore – a suspense novel

The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah – Story of two sisters, separated by years and experience, by ideals, passion and circumstance, each embarking on her own dangerous path toward survival, love, and freedom in German-occupied, war-torn France

I married the Klondike by Laura Beatrice Berton, Pierre Berton's mother. It is a biographical novel about her life in Dawson City, Yukon during the Klondike Goldrush. It explains how Dawson City was known as the "Paris of the North" and how it declined after the Goldrush.

The Surgeon's Daughter by Audrey Blake – story of a woman trying to become a doctor in the 1800's. Main character Nora, trains with another female doctor and together they develop new methods for female health, especial C-sections. Shows the prejudices and struggles they faced.

The Warmth of Other Suns by Isabel Wilkerson (Non fiction) – story about the millions of Black Americans who migrated out of the south between 1915 and 1970 to escape Jim Crow laws. Story told through three individuals who left at different times, for different reasons.

The Three Lives of Alix St. Pierre by Natasha Lester – story of a woman in post-war France trying to build a new life after her role as a spy, but she must face the past and deal with the present in order to have a future. Explores the morality of how Nazis were recruited by the USA and Russia and never held accountable.

Looking for Jane by Heather Marshall - story of 3 women united by a lost letter, a mother's love and a secret network of women fighting for a woman's right to choose.

The Women of Chateau Lafayette by Stephanie Dray – three story lines of the women connected to Chateau Lafayette and their strength protected the castle – set from 1774 with the wife of the famous Lafayette to 1940 and the story of Marthe, a reluctant resistor in WWII.

The Chilbury Ladies Choir by Jennifer Ryan – facing the fear of a Nazi invasion, a group of ladies resurrect a ladies choir – the story is told from multiple perspectives – very quirky story but an engaging read

The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo by Taylor Jenkins Reid – an again movie icon, Evelyn Hugo, chooses an unknown reporter to write her biography – her ruthless ambition, the reasons for her 7 husbands, etc. – a true depiction of the power of studios over their stars in the 50's and 60's and society's prejudices.

The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot by Marianne Cronin – interesting story about the friendship between a 17 year old terminally ill girl and an 83 year old woman in the hospital. Together their ages total 100 years and they decide to have an art show to tell their 100 years of living – explores friendship, love and faith

Indian Horse by Richard Wagamese - Set in Northern Ontario in the late 1950s and early 1960s, it follows protagonist Saul Indian Horse as he uses his extraordinary talent for ice hockey to try and escape his traumatic residential school experience.

The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post by Alison Pataki – biographical novel about real life Post Cereal heiress Marjorie Post - she narrates her life from the time she was gluing cereal boxes for her dad's company in her father's barn to her final moments. Before she turned thirty, she became the wealthiest woman in America.