

# Fireside Book Chats: Winter 2018



*Beth's List: Soon to be published*

Benjamin, Melanie. *The Girls in the Picture*, (2018). Benjamin's latest stylish historical novel transports readers to Hollywood's early days and views the rise and fall of silent films through the friendship and boundary-breaking achievements between one of the era's most dazzling stars, Mary Pickford, and Frances Marion, who rose to prominence as a screenwriter.

Bracht, Mary Lynn. *White Chrysanthemum*, (2018). Sweeping historical debut that brings to life the heartbreaking history of the enslavement of Korean women by the Japanese to serve as "comfort women" to their soldiers during WWII by telling the story of two sisters. One forced into being a comfort woman and the other forced into a loveless marriage. Masterfully crafted and rich with historical detail and emotion.

Finn, A.J. *The Woman in the Window*, (2018). For fans of *Gone Girl* and *The Girl on the Train*, this neo-noir masterpiece centers on an agoraphobic recluse who languishes in her New York City home, drinking wine and spying on her neighbors, before witnessing a terrible crime through her window that exposes her secrets and raises question about her perception of reality.

Graham-Felsen, Sam. *Green*, (2018). This subtly humorous, surprisingly touching coming-of-age narrative is told from the perspective of Dave, one of the only white students at King, a predominantly black and Latino public middle school in Boston in 1992.

Groff, Lauren. *Florida*, (2018). The stories in this collection of stories span characters, towns, decades, even centuries, but Florida -- its landscape, climate, history, and state of mind -- becomes its gravitational center: an energy, a mood, as much as a place of residence.

Harper, Jane. *Force of Nature*, (2018). The second in the Aaron Falk series is another riveting, tension-driven mystery involving the disappearance of one of 5 women on a corporate survival retreat.

Hendricks, Greer. *The Wife Between Us*, (2018). Another psychologically charged tale of suspense with unexpected twists in the vein of *Gone Girl* and *Girl on the Train*. In this story it's the twists that shape a divorce and a second marriage.

Joyce, Rachel. *The Music Shop*, (2018). Frank, the owner of the music shop, sells only vinyl records on a lonely dead end street. But selling is not his main calling. His main calling is that he connects his customers with the piece of music they need with miraculous results.

Massey, Sujata. *The Widows of Malabar Hill*, (2018). Set in 1921, Perveen Mistry, the first female lawyer in India is investigating a suspicious will on behalf of three Muslim widows living in full purdah when the case takes a turn toward the murderous. Period details and thoughtful characterizations within a well-constructed puzzle.

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