

Fireside Book Chats: Winter 2019

Meaghan's List: Under the Radar: Best of 2018



Anderson, John Lee and José Hernández. *Che: A Revolutionary Life*, (2018). *Graphic Nonfiction* - Adapted from Anderson's definitive masterwork with drawings by renowned Mexican artist José Hernández. *Che: A Revolutionary Life* presents the man behind the myth, creating a complex and human portrait of this passionate idealist.

Cantú, Francisco. *The Line Becomes a River: Dispatches From the Border*, (2018). *Nonfiction* - Driven to understand the hard realities of the landscape he loves, Cantú joins the Border Patrol. He and his partners learn to track other humans under blistering sun and through frigid nights. They haul in the dead and deliver to detention those they find alive. Plagued by a growing awareness of his complicity in a dehumanizing enterprise, he abandons the Patrol for civilian life. But when an immigrant friend travels to Mexico to visit his dying mother and does not return, Cantú discovers that the border has migrated with him, and now he must know the full extent of the violence it wreaks, on both sides of the line.

Dery, Mark. *Born to Be Posthumous: The Eccentric Life and Mysterious Genius of Edward Gorey*, (2018). *Nonfiction* - The definitive biography of Edward Gorey, the eccentric master of macabre nonsense and a deeply complicated and conflicted individual, a man whose art reflected his obsessions with the disquieting and the darkly hilarious.

Drnaso, Nick. *Sabrina*, (2018). *Graphic Novel* - *Sabrina* depicts a modern world devoid of personal interaction and responsibility, where relationships are stripped of intimacy through glowing computer screens. Presenting an indictment of our modern state, Drnaso contemplates the dangers of a fake-news climate. Timely and articulate, *Sabrina* leaves you gutted, searching for meaning in the aftermath of disaster.

Fuller, Claire. *Bitter Orange*, (2018). *Fiction* - A crumbling estate provides the backdrop for this ultimately macabre tale. *Bitter Orange* offers a gripping and unsettling look at the ugly side of extreme need and the desperate measures taken in the name of love.

Halliday, Lisa. *Asymmetry*, (2018). *Fiction* - Told in three distinct and uniquely compelling sections, *Asymmetry* explores the imbalances that spark and sustain many of our most dramatic human relations: inequities in age, power, talent, wealth, fame, geography, and justice.

Holmes, JM. *How Are You Going to Save Yourself*, (2018). *Fiction* - Bound together by shared experience but pulled apart by their changing fortunes, four young friends coming of age in the postindustrial enclave of Pawtucket, Rhode Island, struggle to liberate themselves from the legacies left to them as black men in America.



Fireside Book Chats: Winter 2019

Meaghan's List: Under the Radar: Best of 2018



Novey, Idra. *Those Who Knew*, (2018). *Fiction* - On an unnamed island country ten years after the collapse of a U.S.-supported regime, Lena suspects the powerful senator she was involved with back in her student activist days is taking advantage of a young woman who's been introducing him at rallies. When the young woman ends up dead, Lena revisits her own fraught history with the senator and the violent incident that ended their relationship.

Suma, Nova Ren. *A Room Away From the Wolves*, (2018). *Fiction* - A spellbinding ghost story about who deserves a second chance, how we lie to those around us and ourselves, and what lengths girls will go to in order to save each other.

Tawada, Yoko. *The Emissary*, (2018). *Fiction* - Japan, after suffering from a massive irreparable disaster, cuts itself off from the world. Children are so weak they can barely stand or walk: the only people with any get-go are the elderly. This dystopian novel is funny, joyful, and filled with light.

Valente, Catherynne M. *Space Opera*, (2018). *Fiction* - *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* meets the joy and glamour of Eurovision in this science fiction spectacle, where sentient races compete for glory in a galactic musical contest...and the stakes are as high as the fate of planet Earth.

