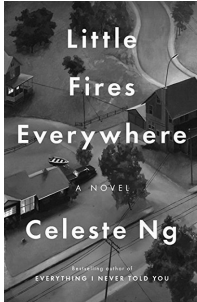


BOOKMARKS

Winter 2018 Newsletter ~ The Bookloft ~ Your hometown source for books and more ~ Enterprise, Oregon

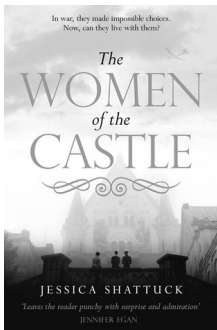
As you can imagine, my pile of books to be read is vast. I usually base my choice of what to read next on what's newly arrived in the store or what's coming out in paperback that I might want to order. But for the New Year I decided to go through my stacks and read the very best books based on reviews and even more importantly, bookseller comments. It has been really fun and I've gotten to experience some wonderful reads. Here are reviews of a few of those as well as a couple of favorite books from last year.



LITTLE FIRES EVERYWHERE by Celeste Ng
This is a family story. Families, as we know, are multi-layered, displaying different facades depending on your perspective. The Richardsons live in Shaker Heights, a well-established planned community in Cleveland, Ohio. Both parents have professional careers and they and their four children have had their life paths laid out for them: excel in school, go to college, begin a career etc, etc.

But as this novel begins, their perfect home has just been burned to the ground and the lives of the whole family have been thrown into upheaval. The rest of the

book tells the story of what happened to lead up to this moment. Ng is the author of *Everything I Never Told You*, another amazing look at family dynamics. Her characters are created with such depth of intimacy that the reader becomes bound to them. As the story unfolded, I felt swept up in their drama until the very end. Not only was I swept up in their story but I felt myself reflecting on the life lessons that the characters were learning. It was the kind of book that made me pause when I finished it to just let the impact settle for a while. 27.00



WOMEN IN THE CASTLE by Jessica Shattuck
This one is recently out in paperback. It is historic fiction set during World War II. While there have been many of these in the last several years (and I have enjoyed lots of them), this one differs in that it takes place in Germany and the main characters are German women whose husbands were in the ill-fated German resistance movement against Hitler. Although they have this shared bond, they are otherwise very different women. Marianne is intellectual, strong-principled and more than a bit domineering. Benita is more beautiful and married her husband hoping to elevate her position

in society and to enjoy a more elegant and exciting lifestyle. Ania is strong like Marianne, but her strength came from fleeing a desperate situation rather than from self-will.

All of them hold secrets and when their lives are thrown together, these secrets have repercussions that force them to explore what it means to survive, to love and ultimately to forgive. 16.99



THE CARE AND FEEDING OF A PET BLACK HOLE by Michelle Cuevas
Set in the 1970s, this middle reader novel was a heart-warming read. Ten-year old Stella is dealing with the loss of her father with whom she shared an interest in the mysteries of the cosmos. Carl Sagan is one of her heroes. One day, she tries (unsuccessfully) to get into NASA to see Sagan. On her way home, she realizes a very small black hole has followed her home. She tries to figure out how to care for this most unusual pet but

Continued on other side...



And the New Year cannot start off without my list of favorite books read in 2017

LINCOLN IN THE BARDO by George Saunders.

As Lincoln grieves the death of his young son, the ghostly residents of the cemetery make their observations.

ELIGIBLE by Curtis Sittenfeld

A clever and extremely contemporary retelling of *Pride and Prejudice*

THE ENCHANTED by Rene Denfeld

A look into the mind and soul of a killer on death row. I is strangely lovely despite the horrors of the situation.

THE NEST by Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney

Four siblings have long awaited an inheritance. When circumstances suddenly change, they are forced to re-evaluate their relationships.

THE LAST PAINTING OF SARA DE VOS by Dominic Smith

A beautifully written novel about a 16th century Dutch woman painter, a 20th century art collector and a forger.

PLANT DREAMING DEEP by May Sarton

Such a lovely writer! This one is a memoir about the first ten years at her home in New Hampshire. An ode to her house, gardening, ancestors, village life, and creativity.

PARIS IN THE PRESENT TENSE by Mark Helprin

An elderly musician and survivor of World War II makes a bold move in the name of justice while dealing with the implications of a fatal illness. Thoughtful and exquisite as Helprin always is.

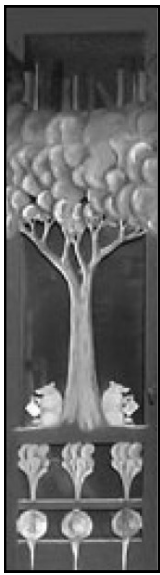
THE COMET SEEKERS by Helen Sedgwick
An intriguing multi-layered look at relationships between people who stay put and those who must come and go – like comets!

THE CARE AND FEEDING OF A PET BLACK HOLE by Michele Cuevas

A young girl who has lost her father learns how to deal with her grief through her deep interest in the cosmos.

EARTH VERSE: POEMS FOR THE EARTH by Kim Stafford

An exploration of the power, solace and inspiration of Earth words.



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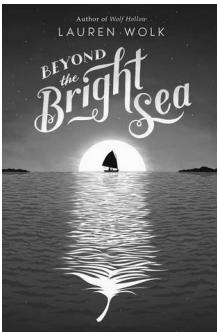
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everything it touches gets swallowed up. This is a bad thing, but she discovers it is also a handy way to get rid of things she no longer wants. But when her dog winds up in the black hole, she ventures inside to try to rescue it.

Adventures follow in which Stella learns that things that have disappeared can still help guide you; that everyone has a dark place inside where we try to hide things away; but that if released, these dark things act like a wormhole, sending us to where we need to go in life. 16.99



BEYOND THE BRIGHT SEA by Lauren Wolk.

As a newborn, Crow was found in a skiff washed up on a small island by a loner named Osh. Raised by him, she thrives in their isolated life. But as she grows older she begins to want to find out her story. As she delves into her past, mysteries appear that threaten the life she has with Osh. Crow must weigh the risks of upsetting the present with her desire for her past. As events escalate, she discovers buried treasure, is hunted by dangerous criminals and

faces fierce storms. Set in the Elizabeth islands off the coast of Massachusetts in the 1920s, this young adult novel was at times thrilling, and heart-wrenching as Crow figures out the true meaning of family. 16.99



EARTH VERSE by Kim Stafford

This slim volume of poetry is a wonderful reflection on our relationship to the natural world around us. Small enough to stick in your backpack or carry in your pocket, it contains a world's worth of inspiration. It can be read as a thoughtful way to start the day, as a writing prompt for your own work, or just as something to dip into periodically to muse on ways to make peace with ourselves, each other and the Earth. 8.00

Check out our website www.bookloftoregon.net to see other staff favorites from 2017

Here's a fun way to support our local libraries:

Sourcebooks has launched the "[Love Your Library Like a Carnegie](#)" campaign, which will give grant money to two nominated libraries and is inspired by the support librarians have given to *Carnegie's Maid* by Marie Benedict. The novel, which was selected as a January 2018 LibraryReads pick, tells the story of a brilliant woman who may have spurred Andrew Carnegie's transformation into a legendary philanthropist.

"Andrew Carnegie gave away \$350 million to charities during the last several years of his life. Most of us can't commit to that much--but that shouldn't stop us from celebrating our libraries," said Margaret Coffee, national accounts manager for school & libraries at Sourcebooks. "Libraries are central to their communities and have enormous impact on readers' lives. Benedict's story and Andrew Carnegie's generosity has inspired us to create a campaign that will not only give back, but hopefully create some excitement and fun around that experience."

Anyone can nominate your favorite library at books.sourcebooks.com/Carnegie/. Sourcebooks will award the two winning libraries \$2,000 each. In addition, one voter will receive a \$100 gift card, and 10 others will get a signed edition of Marie Benedict's first book, *The Other Einstein*. Voting is underway and runs until March 19, when the winning libraries will be announced.

Fishtrap's Big Read kicks off February 22nd. Pick up your copy of *Station Eleven* and start reading!