



What is on your nightstand? Books Discussed on 9.3.2020

Boxcar Children #1 by Gertrude Chandler Warner - This book is available in the library (Call number: J M WAR). The Boxcar Children is a beloved series of chapter books that has been captivating readers for generations with its fun, easy to read storylines that feature a tight-knit group of children having adventures and solving mysteries together. Originally published in 1942, the Boxcar Children series has continued to grow, adding new adventures each year.

Charlotte's Web by E.B. White - This book is available in the library (Call number: J FIC WHI). *Some Pig. Humble. Radiant.* These are the words in Charlotte's Web, high up in Zuckerman's barn. Charlotte's spiderweb tells of her feelings for a little pig named Wilbur, who simply wants a friend. They also express the love of a girl named Fern, who saved Wilbur's life when he was born the runt of his litter.

Dissenter on the Bench: Ruth Bader Ginsburg's Life & Work by Victoria Ortiz - This book is available as a graphic novel, but our library currently doesn't have the physical graphic novel, but the book is available online using [OverDrive](#) and [Bridges as an audiobook](#).

This book intertwines pieces from the narrated case histories with that of RBG's childhood, family life, beliefs, education, marriage, legal and judicial career, her lifetime commitment to civil rights, children and achievements - while also giving the reader a detailed look at the complexity of RBG's personality. Most of the cases discussed pertain with younger individuals and have the following themes: gender equality, fairness and our constitutional rights.

Frida Kahlo: An intimate Self-portrait Introduction by Carlos Fuentes - This is not available at the library but may be an interlibrary loan depending on publication date and lending library availability. Frida Kahlo is perhaps one of the most influential artists of the 20th century. Kahlo wasn't afraid of examining social issues, sexual identity, political activism and non-conformity, which some may consider traits of modern artists today, but Frida was already a pioneer in her time.

The introduction to the book provides an overview into the life of Frida - one of logic, passion, pain and suffering, humor, love and confusion which her art, and art in general, tries to help us cope with the issues we find most unbearable or the hardest to understand.

Front Row at the Trump Show by Jonathan Karl - This is not available at the library but may be an interlibrary loan depending on publication date and lending library availability. Taken from Amazon: Jonathan Karl brings us into the White House in a powerful book unlike any other on the Trump administration. He's known and covered Donald Trump longer than any other White House reporter. With extraordinary access to Trump during the campaign and at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Karl delivers essential new reporting and surprising insights.

In Watermelon Sugar by Richard Brautigan - This book is available in the library (Call number: FIC BRA). The book is written from the perspective of the nameless narrator, who addresses his audience, and lets them know he is writing the book. The narrator lives in a shack near iDeath, a small town where people live a gentle life with watermelon being their main food source. In fact, watermelon sugar is used in the production of literally everything in iDeath from clothes, houses and bridges. There is a group of citizens in iDeath who begin to rebel against the lifestyle of those in iDeath, and they form a group called inBOIL and set up a camp at the Forgotten Works, a dump that holds the scattered pieces and remnants of the past. The inBOIL group makes whisky, gets drunk and they do evil things. This group also digs up relics and books to sell to the villagers.

Mrs. Lincoln's Sisters by Jennifer Chiaverini - This book is available in the library (Call number: Fic Chi and L.P. Fic Chi). Taken from Amazon in May 1875, Elizabeth Todd Edwards reels from news that her younger sister Mary, former First Lady and widow of President Abraham Lincoln, has attempted suicide. Mary's shocking act followed legal proceedings arranged by her eldest and only surviving son that declared her legally insane. Although they have long been estranged, Elizabeth knows Mary's tenuous mental health has deteriorated through decades of trauma and loss.

The Healing Jar by Wanda E. Brunstetter - This book is available in the library (Call Number: Fic Bru). Lenore Lapp is an Amish schoolteacher in her late twenties still living at home with her parents and grandparents. She thought love had passed her by until she meets Jesse Smucker, a widower with a baby daughter. She quickly falls in love with them both and accepts Jesse's proposal of marriage, but Jesse breaks off their engagement when he realizes he can't marry only for convenience.

The Queen's Secret: A Novel of England's World War II queen by Karen Harper - This is available in the library (Call Number: Fic Har or L.P. Fic Har). Taken from Amazon: 1939. As the wife of the King George VI and the mother of the future queen, Elizabeth—"the queen mother"—shows a warm, smiling face to the world. But it's no surprise that Hitler himself calls her the "Most Dangerous Woman in Europe." For behind that soft voice and kindly demeanor is a will of steel.

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens - This is available in print (Call numbers: FIC OWE, L.P. FIC OWE and CD FIC OWE) and audiobook at the library and on [OverDrive/Bridges](#). The story follows two timelines that slowly intertwine. The first timeline describes the life and adventures of a young girl named Kya as she grows up isolated in the marsh of North Carolina from 1952-1969. The second timeline follows a murder investigation of Chase Andrews, a local celebrity.

You can't touch my hair: and other things I still have to explain by Phoebe Robinson and forward by Jessica Williams - This book is available online using [OverDrive and Bridges](#). Taken from Amazon: Being a black woman in America means contending with old prejudices and fresh absurdities every day. Comedian Phoebe Robinson has experienced her fair share over the years: she's been unceremoniously relegated to the role of "the black friend," as if she is somehow the authority on all things racial; she's been questioned about her love of U2 and Billy Joel ("isn't that...white people music?"); she's been called "uppity" for having an opinion in the workplace; she's been followed around stores by security guards; and yes, people do ask her whether they can touch her hair all the time.

5 Love Languages: The Secret to Love that Lasts by Gary Chapman - This is not available at the library but may be an interlibrary loan depending on publication date and lending library availability. Taken from Amazon: Falling in love is easy. Staying in love—that's the challenge. How can you keep your relationship fresh and growing amid the demands, conflicts, and just plain boredom of everyday life?

28 Summers by Elin Hilderbrand - This book is available in the library (Call Number: Fic Hal and CD Fic Hal). Taken from Amazon: When Mallory Blessing's son, Link, receives deathbed instructions from his mother to call a number on a slip of paper in her desk drawer, he's not sure what to expect. But he certainly does not expect Jake McCloud to answer. It's the late spring of 2020 and Jake's wife, Ursula DeGournsey, is the frontrunner in the upcoming Presidential election. There must be a mistake, Link thinks. How do Mallory and Jake know each other? Flash back to the sweet summer of 1993: Mallory has just inherited a beachfront cottage on Nantucket from her aunt, and she agrees to host her brother's bachelor party. Cooper's friend from college, Jake McCloud, attends, and Jake and Mallory form a bond that will persevere -- through marriage, children, and Ursula's stratospheric political rise -- until Mallory learns she's dying.