

SWC Recommended Reading List for 2022-2023

Book Title	Author	Pub Year	Description	Genre	Recommended by
I Must Betray You	Ruth Sepetys	2022	A heartbreaking and compelling historical thriller about communist Romania and the citizen spy network that devastated a nation.	Historical Fiction (YA)	Nan Healy
The Palace Papers: Inside the House of Windsor – the Truth and Turmoil	Tina Brown	2022	Addictively readable inside story of the British royal family's battle to overcome the dramas and crises of the last decades.	Biography	Nan Healy
Remarkably Bright Creatures	Shelby Van Pelt	2022	The story of the relationship between a 70-year-old widow and an octopus is a larger story about family, loss, community, and optimism in spite of darkness.	Fiction	Nan Healy
Call Your Daughter Home	Deb Spera	2019	Follows three women intertwined in struggle, unlikely friendship, and ultimately, redemption. Authentic, gripping, page-turner, yet also a novel filled with language that begs to be savored.	Fiction	Nan Healy
Clementine: The Life of Mrs. Winston Churchill	Sonia Purnell	2015	From the author of the <i>New York Times</i> bestseller <i>A Woman of No Importance</i> , a long overdue tribute to the extraordinary woman who was Winston Churchill's closest confidante, fiercest critic and shrewdest advisor that captures the intimate dynamic of one of history's most fateful marriages.	Biography	Thayre Dennis
Love and Saffron: A Novel of Friendship, Food, and Love	Kim Fay	2022	This is an epistolary novel (letters back and forth), but it is enchanting. It makes you feel good, and the characters are very enjoyable people. This is set in a more innocent time, so it is a comfort novel.	Fiction	MaryCarol Stearns
The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post	Allison Pataki	2022	This woman (inheritor of the Post cereal fortune) led so many extraordinary lives. Each chapter of her long life span (from the turn of the century, through the invention of the automobile, WWI, the Spanish Flu, WWII, the Cold War, to outer space) will have you saying, "No Way!" There was so much to learn in this novel about America and its growth.	Historical Fiction	Mary Carol Stearns, Karla Dunham

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The Christie Affair	Nina De Gramont	2022	This fictionalized biography of mystery writer Agatha Christie focuses on the ten days that Agatha Christie went missing, setting up her own mystery in the U.K. Many theorized that she tried to fake her own death to pin the blame on her husband who had admitted to having an affair and wanting a divorce.	Fiction	Nan Healy
The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue	VE Schwab	2020	In the 1700s, Addie LaRue makes a deal with the devil—she will live forever, although her immortality comes with the curse of being forgotten by everyone. Addie moves through time and across continents; she learns to survive and even leave her mark on the world.	Fiction	Cindy Feeley
The Lincoln Highway	Amor Towles	2021	A captivating piece of historical fiction transporting a rollicking cross-country adventure, rife with unforgettable characters, vivid scenery and suspense that will keep readers flying through the pages.	Fiction	Cindy Feeley
Life with Picasso	Francoise Gilot	2019	This is a candid memoir about the “mind and spirit of Picasso – and gives fascinating insight into the intense and creative life shared by two modern artists.” “Francoise was in her early twenties when she met the sixty-one year old Pablo Picasso in 1943.” “This is the story of their love affair, and a relationship of 10 years, during which time she gave birth to two of his children.”	Memoir	Gail MacNeill
Where the Lost Wander	Amy Harmon	2020	In this epic and haunting love story set on the Oregon Trail, a family and their unlikely protector find their way through peril, uncertainty, and loss.	Fiction	Anne Morgan

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Funny Farm: My Unexpected Life with 600 Rescue Animals	Laurie Zaleski	2022	<i>Funny Farm</i> is Laurie's story: of promises kept, dreams fulfilled, and animals lost and found. It's the story of Annie McNulty, who fled a nightmarish marriage with few skills, no money and no resources, dragging three kids behind her, and accumulating hundreds of cast-off animals on the way.	Memior	Anne Morgan
The Nantucket Hotel	Ellen Hilderbrand	2022	Filled with the emotional depth and multiple points of view that characterize Hilderbrand's novels as well as an added dash of Roaring Twenties history, <i>The Hotel Nantucket</i> offers something for everyone in this compelling summer drama.	Fiction	Sharon Jones
The Mystery of Mrs. Christie	Marie Benedict	2020	Agatha Christie fans will enjoy reading details from behind the scenes of Agatha's first romance, marriage and the disintegration of that relationship ... why? Because Agatha makes certain that she will control the public's perspective of the cause of their divorce.	Historical Fiction	Elly Stephens
The Only Woman in the Room	Marie Benedict	2019	Hedy Kiesler - later known as the beautiful and successful Hollywood actress, Hedy Lamar - struggles to be seen as more than a pretty face. A brilliant and educated woman, she is part of the Resistance during WWII. In a marriage that places her in the company of high-ranking Nazis, she is privy to conversations among Nazi leadership. It is her brilliance that enables her to escape to America and develop the first technical breakthrough for enabling submarines to fire a missile without being detected.	Historical Fiction	Elly Stephens

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The Ride of Her Life	Elizabeth Letts	2021	Equestrian lovers will enjoy this true-life story of Annie Wilkins, who - at the age of 63 - rode her horse with her dog alongside, from Minot, Maine to California, after being diagnosed with cancer and told she had just months to live. This book details her journey and all of the wonderful Americans who reached out to help her, along the way.	Memior	Elly Stephens
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Finding Dorothy	Elizabeth Letts	2019	This richly imagined novel tells the story behind The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, the book that inspired the iconic film, through the eyes of author L. Frank Baum's intrepid wife, Maud. The lives of Frank and Maud Baum, Judy Garland and other players of the era of the movie's creation are all part of the story.	Historical Fiction	Mary Kirk
The Tide Between Us	Olive Collins	2018	An epic story of Irish indenture in the sugar cane fields of Jamaica. Inspired by the real story of 2,000 Irish children deported to Jamaica and the statistics that 25% of Jamaican citizens claim Irish ancestry. The Tide Between Us is a powerful novel documenting true historical events and the resilience of the human spirit.	Historical Fiction	Mary Kirk
An Inconvenient Woman	Dominic Dunne	2012	In "An Inconvenient Woman" Dunne examines the dynamics of power and money that mask most American tragedies and turns them into his best novel. A fabulously wealthy couple share the perfect marriage or so it seems. But adultery, murder and intrigue underlie the beautifully appointed and well-mannered façade.	Fiction	Mary Kirk
The Memory Keeper of Kyiv	Erin Litteken	2022	<i>In the 1930s, Stalin's activists marched through the Soviet Union, espousing the greatness of collective farming. It was the first step in creating a man-made famine that, in</i>	Historical Fiction	Barbara Mulhall

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			<i>Ukraine, stole almost 4 million lives. Inspired by the history the world forgot, and the Russian government denies, Erin Litteken reimagines their story.</i>		
Anna	Amy Odell	2022	Anna Wintour, who is currently an executive at Condé Nast, while running Vogue magazine, is “regarded as cultural and business impresario”. This book shares her life story and how she became “the most influential voice in the world of fashion”.	Biography	Suzie Maxson
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The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell	Robert Dugoni	2018		Historical Fiction	Karla Dunham
The Island	Adrian McKinty	2022	“A newly married couple go to Australia on a working vacation to bond with their blended family and end up with an invitation to Dutch Island, which is usually closed off to visitors. They go, and what they find makes them regret It in this high-concept, white knuckle thriller from the author of <u>The Chain</u> .	Fiction	Suzie Maxson
Untamed	Glennon Doyle	2020	Soulful and uproarious, forceful and tender, Untamed is both an intimate memoir and a galvanizing wake-up call” addressing the important issues facing women today.	Biography	Suzie Maxson