

# Armchair Travel Book Club Selection List

## Brookfield Public Library 2021

All sessions are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month.

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We try to have enough books available for everyone in the discussion group by requesting them from other library systems. Under ideal circumstances, the books are available one month in advance of the meeting date from the Circulation Desk. Just ask at the check-out desk for the next available book discussion title and ask staff to check the item out to you through the date of the discussion.

On the date of each meeting, please check the sign in the lobby for meeting location.

June 15, 2021                                  10:00 a.m.                                  Southern U.S., WWII Europe & Japan  
**The Last Thing You Surrender** by Leonard Pitts (fiction)

Three people from the Jim Crow South face the enormous changes World War II triggers in the United States. An affluent white marine survives Pearl Harbor at the cost of a black messman's life only to be sent, wracked with guilt, to the Pacific and taken prisoner by the Japanese. A young black woman, widowed by the same events at Pearl, finds unexpected opportunity and a dangerous friendship in a segregated Alabama shipyard feeding the war. A black man, who as a child saw his parents brutally lynched, is conscripted to fight Nazis for a country he despises and discovers a new kind of patriotism in the all-black 761st Tank Battalion. What does it take to change someone's mind about race? What does it take for a country and a people to move forward, transformed? (Polaris Summary).

July 20, 2021                                  10:00 a.m.                                  Africa  
**Walking the Nile** by Levison Wood

The Nile, one of the world's great rivers, has long been an object of fascination and obsession. English writer, photographer, and explorer Levison Wood's book is a captivating account of a remarkable and unparalleled Nile journey. Starting in November 2013 in a forest in Rwanda, where a modest spring spouts a trickle of clear, cold water, Wood set forth on foot, aiming to become the first person to walk the entire length of the fabled river. He followed the Nile for nine months, over 4,000 miles, through six nations to its end at the Mediterranean coast (Polaris summary).

August 17, 2021                                  10:00 a.m.                                  Persia (Iran)  
**The Blood of Flowers: a Novel** by Anita Amirrezvani (fiction)

In 17th-century Iran, a 14-year-old woman believes she will be married within the year. But when her beloved father dies, she and her mother find themselves alone and without a dowry. With nowhere else to go, they are forced to journey to Isfahan, where they will work as servants for her uncle, a rich rug designer in the court of the legendary Shah Abbas the Great. Forced into a secret marriage to a wealthy man, the young woman finds herself faced with a daunting decision: forsake her own dignity, or risk everything she has in an effort to create a new life (Amazon).

September 21, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Florida

**Finding Florida: The True Story of the Sunshine State** by T.D. Allman

Over its long history, Florida has been many things. With a native population as high as 900,000 (who all died), it became a pestilential backwater with a few thousand inhabitants, but today is our fourth most populous state, with nineteen million. Florida is now one of our most diverse states, a dynamic multicultural place with an essential role in 21st century America. However, the remarkable story of Florida has been distorted and whitewashed. Journalist T.D. Allman traces the discovery, exploration, and settlement of Florida, its transformation from a swamp to a paradise (Polaris summary).

October 19, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Morocco, Gulf Coast, SW US

**The Moor's Account** by Laila Lalami (fiction)

In 1527, the conquistador Pánfilo de Narváez sailed with a crew of six hundred men and nearly a hundred horses to claim what is now the Gulf Coast of the United States for the Spanish crown. But from the moment the expedition landed in Florida, it faced peril. Within a year, there were only four survivors: one a Moroccan slave, Mustafa al-Zamori, whom the Spaniards called Estebanico. These four survivors would go on to make a journey across America that would transform them from proud conquistadores to humble servants, from fearful outcasts to faith healers (Polaris summary).

November 16, 2021

10:00 a.m.

California, South Pacific

**Black Wave: A Family's Adventure at Sea and the Disaster That Saved Them** by John and Jean Silverwood

In 2003, after two years at sea, the 55-foot catamaran sailed by the Silverwoods, a suburban California family that chucked it all to sail around the world, hit a reef off the South Pacific island of Scilly (now known as Manuae), putting the life of Jean and John and their four children in peril. Written from both John and Jean's perspective, the book covers the wreck, the family's fight for survival and the story of the Julia Anne (a sailing ship that hit the same reef in 1855), which gives an eye-opening account of how much and how little sea travel has changed in 150 years (*Publisher's Weekly*).

### **No Meeting in December**

January-May 2022 selections will be on a separate flyer and will be available after October 2021.