

# BACK IN TIME BOOK CLUB

## 2023 TITLES

Books are available at the Circulation Desk about 1 month before the meeting.

**Thursday, January 19**

**2:00pm**

***The Duchess : A Novel of Wallis Simpson* by Wendy Holden**

It was a love so strong, a king renounced his kingdom—all for that woman. Or was she just an escape route for a monarch who never wanted to rule? Bestselling author Wendy Holden takes an intimate look at one of the most notorious scandals of the 20th century.

(Amazon)

**Thursday, February 16**

**2:00pm**

***Wingwalkers* by Taylor Brown**

One-part epic adventure, one-part love story, and, as is the signature for critically-acclaimed author Taylor Brown, one large part American history. The novel follows the adventures of Della and Zeno Marigold, a pair of Great Depression barnstormers who are funding their journey west by performing death-defying aerial stunts from town to town, and braids them with the real-life exploits of author (and thwarted fighter pilot) William Faulkner. When their paths cross during a dramatic air show, there will be unexpected consequences for all.

(Amazon)

**Thursday, March 16**

**2:00pm**

***Dead Man's Walk : A Novel* by Larry McMurtry**

As young Texas Rangers, Augustus McCrae and Woodrow Call ("Gus" and "Call" for short) have much to learn about survival in a land fraught with perils: not only the blazing heat and raging tornadoes, roiling rivers and merciless Indians, but also the deadly whims of soldiers. On their first expeditions—led by incompetent officers and accompanied by the robust, dauntless whore known as the Great Western—they will face death at the hands of the cunning Comanche war chief Buffalo Hump and the silent Apache Gomez. They will be astonished by the Mexican army. And Gus will meet the love of his life.

(Amazon)

**Thursday, April 20**

**2:00pm**

***Booth : A Novel* by Karen Joy Fowler**

As the tenor of the world shifts, the Booths emerge from their hidden lives to cement their place as one of the country's leading theatrical families. But behind the curtains of the many stages they have graced, multiple scandals, family triumphs, and criminal disasters begin to take their toll, and the solemn siblings of John Wilkes Booth are left to reckon with the truth behind the destructively specious promise of an early prophecy.

(Amazon)

**Thursday, May 18**

**2:00pm**

***The Island of Sea Women : A Novel* by Lisa See**

Mi-ja and Young-sook, two girls living on the Korean island of Jeju, are best friends who come from very different backgrounds. When they are old enough, they begin working in the sea with their village's all-female diving collective, led by Young-sook's mother. As the girls take up their positions as baby divers, they know they are beginning a life of excitement and responsibility—but also danger.

(Amazon)

**Thursday, June 15**

**2:00pm**

***The Stolen Lady: a Novel of World War II and the Mona Lisa* by Laura Morelli**

When art and war collide, Leonardo da Vinci, his beautiful subject Lisa, and the portrait find themselves in the crosshairs of history. From the acclaimed author of *The Night Portrait* comes a stunning historical novel about two women, separated by five hundred years, who each hide Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa—with unintended consequences.

(Amazon)

**Thursday, July 20**

**2:00pm**

***The Great Passion : A Novel* by James Runcie**

In 1727, Stefan Silbermann is a grief-stricken thirteen-year-old, struggling with the death of his mother and his removal to a school in distant Leipzig. Despite his father's insistence that he try not to think of his mother too much, Stefan is haunted by her absence, and, to make matters worse, he's bullied by his new classmates. But when the school's cantor, Johann Sebastian Bach, takes notice of his new pupil's beautiful singing voice and draws him from the choir to be a soloist, Stefan's life is permanently changed.

(Amazon)

**Thursday, August 17**

***The Paris Bookseller* by Kerri Maher**

**2:00pm**

Shakespeare and Company is more than a bookstore and lending library: Many of the prominent writers of the Lost Generation, like Ernest Hemingway, consider it a second home. It's where some of the most important literary friendships of the twentieth century are forged—none more so than the one between Irish writer James Joyce and Sylvia herself. When Joyce's controversial novel *Ulysses* is banned, Beach takes a massive risk and publishes it under the auspices of Shakespeare and Company. (Amazon)

**Thursday, September 21**

***Joan: A Novel of Joan of Arc* by Katherine J. Chen**

**2:00pm**

In Katherine J. Chen's hands, the myth and legend of Joan of Arc is transformed into a flesh-and-blood young woman: reckless, steel-willed, and brilliant. This meticulously researched novel is a sweeping narrative of her life, from a childhood steeped in both joy and violence, to her meteoric rise to fame at the head of the French army, where she navigates the perils of the battlefield and the equally treacherous politics of the royal court. Many are threatened by a woman who leads, and Joan draws wrath and suspicion from all corners, while her first taste of fame and glory leaves her vulnerable to her own powerful ambition. (Amazon)

***(Ballots for 2024 selections distributed. Cast your votes!)***

**Thursday, October 19**

***Nefertiti : A Novel* by Michelle Moran**

**2:00pm**

From the moment of her arrival in Thebes, Nefertiti is beloved by the people but fails to see that powerful priests are plotting against her husband's rule. The only person brave enough to warn the queen is her younger sister, Mutnodjmet. Observant and contemplative, Mutnodjmet has never shared her sister's desire for power. She yearns for a quiet existence away from family duty and the intrigues of court. But remaining loyal to Nefertiti will force Mutnodjmet into a dangerous political game; one that could cost her everything she holds dear. Teeming with love, betrayal, political unrest, plague, and religious conflict, *Nefertiti* brings ancient Egypt to life in vivid detail. (Amazon)

***(Ballots for 2024 selections collected. Cast your votes!)***

**Thursday, November 16**

***Daughters of Sparta* by Claire Haywood**

**2:00pm**

For millennia, men have told the legend of the woman whose face launched a thousand ships - but now it's time to hear her side of the story. *Daughters of Sparta* is a tale of secrets, love, and tragedy from the women behind mythology's most devastating war, the infamous Helen and her sister, Klytemnestra. *Daughters of Sparta* is a vivid and illuminating reimagining of the Siege of Troy, told through the perspectives of two women whose voices have been ignored for far too long. (Amazon)

**Thursday, December 21**

***The Marriage Portrait* by Maggie O'Farrell**

**2:00pm**

Florence, the 1550s. Lucrezia, third daughter of the grand duke, is comfortable with her obscure place in the palazzo: free to wonder at its treasures, observe its clandestine workings, and to devote herself to her own artistic pursuits. But when her older sister dies on the eve of her wedding to the ruler of Ferrara, Moderna and Regio, Lucrezia is thrust unwittingly into the limelight: the duke is quick to request her hand in marriage, and her father just as quick to accept on her behalf. Having barely left girlhood behind, Lucrezia must now make her way in a troubled court whose customs are opaque and where her arrival is not universally welcomed. Perhaps most mystifying of all is her new husband himself, Alfonso. Is he the playful sophisticate he appeared to be before their wedding, the aesthete happiest in the company of artists and musicians, or the ruthless politician before whom even his formidable sisters seem to tremble? As Lucrezia sits in constricting finery for a painting intended to preserve her image for centuries to come, one thing becomes worryingly clear. In the court's eyes, she has one duty: to provide the heir who will shore up the future of the Ferranese dynasty. Until then, for all of her rank and nobility, the new duchess's future hangs entirely in the balance. (Café)

The Back in Time Book Club welcomes everyone interested in reading and discussing historical fiction.

New Members are always welcome

For more information, please contact the Adult Reference Desk at 262-782-4140, opt. 1