

Bookbites

Bookends on Main

2020 – Looking Forward

Saturday, January 18th,
10:30 A.M.



Kristine Theis will be presenting a story hour for young

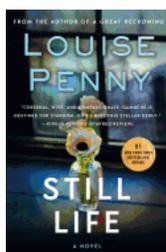
children and their caregiver. First on her agenda will be the much-loved classic, *Stone Soup* and the newer, funny *Vegetables in*

Underwear. Her plan is to busy the children with songs and stories of magical soup and goofy vegetables and discuss food sourcing and seasonal awareness with the adults.

Kristine has a six month-old daughter and a full time job, and wants to add a monthly Saturday story time to her busy life. This seems like such a fun addition to our bookstore programming. Please join us January 18.

Bookclub Jan. 14

Our January book is *Still Life*, Louise Penny's first Inspector Gamache mystery. Our club meets at



the bookstore at 6:30 and both new and long-standing Inspector Gamache

followers are welcome.

2020

January

Resolutions for 2020

Read more books

Read more poems

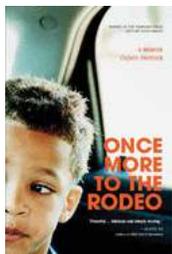
Eat less

Exercise more

Be kinder and nicer

Shop local of course

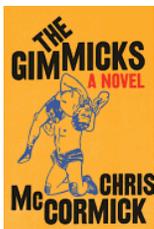
Midwest Connections Picks for January



One More to the Rodeo, Calvin Henrick

"In this powerful memoir, Calvin Henrick ~ a white

father trying to prepare his tenderhearted brown son for an often-hostile world ~ attempts to come to terms with the scars left by his own painful family history. *One More to the Rodeo* is a hilarious and deeply moving journey, simultaneously optimistic yet also clear-eyed about the difficulties of fatherhood and race." *Celeste Ng*



The Gimmicks, Chris McCormick

Set in the waning years of the Cold War, a stunning

debut novel about a trio of young Armenians that moves from the Soviet Union, across Europe, to Southern California, and at its center, one of the most tragic cataclysms in twentieth-century history-the Armenian Genocide-whose traumatic reverberations will have unexpected consequences on all three lives.



The Heap, Sean Adams

Standing nearly five hundred stories tall, Los Verticalés once bustling with life and excitement.

Now this marvel of modern architecture and nontraditional urban planning has collapsed into a pile of rubble known as the Heap. A vast community of Dig Hands removes debris, trash, and bodies from the building's mountainous remains, and finds one survivor who is broadcasting under the rubble. A surprising and sardonic debut novel.

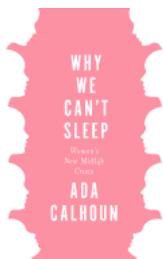


Such a Fun Age, Kiley Reid

A striking and surprising debut

novel from an exhilarating new voice, *Such a Fun Age* is a page-turning and big-hearted story about race and privilege, set around a young black babysitter, her well-intentioned employer, and a surprising connection that threatens to undo them both.

Heather's reviews — *Why We Can't Sleep*



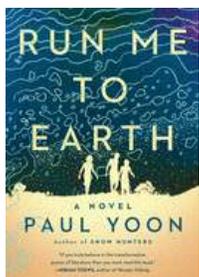
Why We Can't Sleep: Women's New Midlife Crisis by Ada Calhoun explores some of the challenges that Generation X women are facing in mid-life and it really

resonated with me. As a forty-something Generation X woman I could relate to the feelings women from all over the country expressed in this book about being exhausted and overwhelmed when we supposedly "have it all" (or at least that was what our generation of women was raised to believe we could

have). The reality is that many of us are feeling unhappy, anxious, and stressed as we try to juggle work, family, caring for children and in many cases our parents, and trying to spend quality time with our spouse/partner, children, and friends which does not leave much (if any) time for self-care. Women of other generations have obviously wrestled with many of these issues as well, but Calhoun explores some of the issues that are more unique to Generation X (ie. job instability, mounting credit card debt, divorce, etc...) that is increasing stress for many middle-aged women to-

day. Calhoun has done her research and reached out to women across the country for their thoughts and input. The reader finds validation and comfort in knowing that they are not alone with these feelings and struggles. Calhoun offers some useful advice for how to cope with these challenges, but I feel the book's true value comes from acknowledging the Generation X midlife crisis that many women are experiencing and starting the conversation about how we can navigate this time in our lives, support one another, and make the necessary changes on a personal and national level to better address the issues Generation X women are currently facing.

Run Me to Earth



Run Me to Earth by Paul Yoon begins in Laos in the 1960's, where the reader is introduced to Alisak, Prany, and Noi, three teenage orphans who are recruited to work as

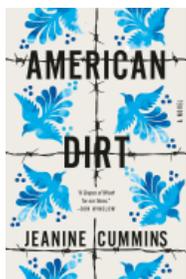
motorcycle couriers for a field hospital. Their days are often dangerous as they search the surrounding area for injured civilians and medical supplies

all while trying to avoid threats from above and the undetonated bombs that remain on the ground. Vang, a doctor at the field hospital, takes them under his wing and arranges an evacuation for them. Tragically things do not go as planned during the evacuation and the three are separated from one another in the chaos, but the hope to be reunited someday remains with each of them and is a driving force in their lives as the reader learns of their fates and journeys

in the decades that follow. Run Me to Earth is a very powerful and emotional read and the experiences of Alisak, Prany, and Noi will remain with you long after you finish the book.

“...a very powerful and emotional read...”

American Dirt



American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins is one of the most powerful books I have read to date and it is very pertinent to what is going on in the United States today. Cummins does

an amazing job of personalizing the migrant experience through the unforgettable characters of Lydia and Luca, a

mother and her young son, who are forced to flee their home in Mexico due to increasing violence, a family tragedy, and continuing threats from a drug lord. Lydia believes that getting to the United States is the only way to ensure their safety and she hopes that there will be opportunity for her and her son there. Hope and the need to escape from dire situations are the driving forces for nearly all of the other migrants she and her son meet during

their journey north.

The writing was superb and I felt as though I was on this perilous journey with Lydia and Luca and often experienced the feelings of tension and terror as they encountered dangerous people and situations. I shed many tears while reading this book, but ultimately this is a book about the power of hope and survival. It is a very timely novel and it is my hope that everyone will read it.

Books to Movies in 2020 by Heather Obenburger

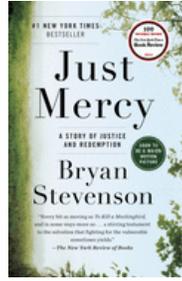
One of my favorite winter activities is reading, and every January I look ahead to movies based on books that are coming out that year. Then I make it a goal to try to read as many of them as I can before they are released in the theater. I like seeing the film adaptation and comparing it to the novel. I am sure I am biased because I work in a bookstore but 99 percent of the time, although I enjoy the films I have found the books to be superior. Either way, I have found that reading the book first enriches the experience of watching the



movie. I think there must be others like me, because this past year Where'd You Go Bernadette (by Maria Semple) and The Goldfinch (by Donna Tartt) were two of our bestsellers at the bookstore and both came out as movies in 2019.

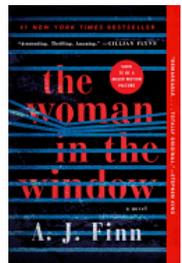


This year the three movies I am most excited to see are based on a book. Just Mercy is a true story



about the author Bryan Stevenson and his continuing fight against injustice in the criminal justice system particularly as it pertains to those who are poor or wrongly condemned for crimes. I am halfway through the book right now. It is very well-written and is an emotional read. I have shed many tears and I believe this book is a call to action for individuals, communities, and the nation to address these injustices. The movie starring Michael B. Jordan (as Bryan Stevenson) and Jamie Foxx (as Walter McMillan an innocent man sentenced to Death Row whose case Bryan investigates) is coming out this month.

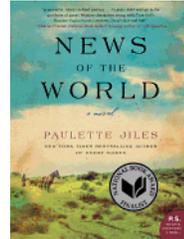
The Woman in the Window by A.J.



Finn has been adapted for film and should be in theaters in May this year. I read the book last year and it is an unforgettable psychological thriller. The movie, which will star one of my favorite actresses Amy Adams, is

sure to be a real nail biter!

To wrap up 2020, a film based on the book News of the World by Paulette Jiles will be hitting theaters in December. The movie is sure to be a crowd pleaser with Tom Hanks starring in the



role of Jefferson Kyle Kidd. Captain Kidd whose past endeavors included fighting in three wars and working as a printer finds himself at the age of 71 taking to the road and reading the news to paying audiences in the towns he travels through. At one such stop he is asked to bring a young orphan girl (who has spent the previous four years being raised by the Kiowa tribe after being captured in a raid) to her relatives in San Antonio. In the vein of True Grit by Charles Portis (which was made into a movie in 1969 and again in 2010) this novel has some laugh out loud moments and will tug at your heart strings.

These are just a few of the books being made into movies this year and you can find more on-line by Googling "Books to Movies in 2020". Make it a New Year's resolution to read at least one book before you see the movie version of it.

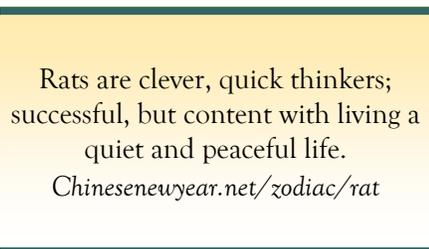
2020 The Year of the Rat

Saturday January 25 is Chinese New Year, the beginning of the Spring Festival, the year of the rat. Read about it at chinesenewyear.net

"The Rat is the first of all zodiac animals. According to one myth, the Jade Emperor said the order would be decided by the order in which they arrived to his party. The Rat tricked the Ox into giving him a ride. Then, just as they arrived at the finish line, Rat

jumped down and landed ahead of Ox, becoming first.

The Rat is also associated with the



Earthly Branch (地支—dì zhī) Zi (子) and the midnight hours. In the terms of yin and yang (阴阳—yīn yáng), the Rat is yang and represents the beginning of a new day.

In Chinese culture, rats were seen as a sign of wealth and surplus. Because of their reproduction rate, married couples also prayed to them for children."

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January

By William Carlos Williams 1883-1963

Again I reply to the triple winds
running chromatic fifths of derision
outside my window:

Play louder.

You will not succeed. I am
bound more to my sentences
the more you batter at me
to follow you.

And the wind,
as before, fingers perfectly
its derisive music.

December Notes

Winner of *The Drink That
Made Wisconsin Famous*:

Jessica Stark



Surprisingly, it was hard to give
this book away. Many registered,
but some declined the prize.

A second autographed copy is at
the book store for purchase.

Wine give-away winners:

1. Eric Atkinson
2. Jenny and Sandy Rogers
3. Pat Erickson
4. Pat Ginsbach (Elmwood)
5. Adam Ludwig
6. Wade Lambrighen —New
Year's Eve winner



December was a very big
month at the bookstore, so
THANK YOU EVERYONE!
We are good for another year,
body and mind willing.