

Tuesday Afternoon Book Discussion Group Meeting Schedule

The Tuesday Afternoon Book Discussion Group meeting dates and book titles are:
Tuesday, February 6, 2018 at 2 p.m.

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Blindness by José Saramago 294 pages

A city is hit by an epidemic of "white blindness" which spares no one. Authorities confine the blind to an empty mental hospital, but there the criminal element holds everyone captive, stealing food rations and raping women. There is one eyewitness to this nightmare who guides seven strangers – among them a boy with no mother, a girl with dark glasses, and a dog of tears – through the barren streets, and the procession becomes as uncanny as the surroundings are harrowing. A magnificent parable of loss, disorientation, and a vivid evocation of the horrors of the twentieth century. The stunningly powerful novel of man's will to survive against all odds, by the winner of the 1998 Nobel Prize for Literature.

Tuesday, March 6, 2018 at 2 p.m.

Soldier Girls: The Battles of Three Women at Home and at War by Helen Thorpe 397 pages

For the U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, unprecedented numbers of men and women from the National Guard were called up and sent overseas. This book tells the story of three such women - what they thought they were getting into and what they got into and came out of, changed forever. The book flies by with its personal stories of young Michelle, who just wanted help with her college education; Desma, a mother who had to leave her young children behind, twice; and grandmother Debbie, who served twice, too, while supporting the few other women and many of the men she encountered. This book is not just to enlighten readers but also to let other war veterans know that they are not alone in their struggle to put their lives back together after a deployment.

Tuesday, April 3, 2018 at 2 p.m.

Case Histories by Kate Atkinson 320 pages

Private Detective Jackson Brodie investigates three cases (a vanished sister, a lawyer daughter, and a murderously mad young mom) and startling connections and discoveries emerge. Inextricably caught up in his client's grief, joy, and desire, Jackson finds their unshakable need for resolution very much like his own. The author's celebrated talent makes for a novel that positively sparkles with surprise, comedy, tragedy, and constant, page-turning delight.

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Tuesday, May 1, 2018 at 2 p.m.

On Chesil Beach by Ian McEwan 203 pages

It is 1962, and college graduates Florence and Edward, very much children of late 1950s London, are ready to launch themselves as a couple. Musical Florence is hoping for a concert career and looking forward to the wedding she believes will truly define her adulthood. Edward, a budding historian from a troubled family, envisions lifelong domestic joy with his beautiful fiancée. However, both are plagued by private anxieties they cannot bring themselves to discuss. As Edward plans an idyllic beachside wedding night, he broods about overcoming Florence's physical shyness given his own sparse experience. He has no idea she is terrified of sex but has grimly resolved to do her submissive duty. The results are false assumptions, confusion, and a nightmarish sexual disaster that destroys the marriage even before it starts.