

THURSDAY AFTERNOON BOOK CLUB 2021

By invitation only : a novel

July

By Frank, Dorothea Benton

Summary *By Invitation Only* is a tale of two families, one struggling to do well, one well to do, and one young couple—the privileged daughter of Chicago's crème de la crème and the son of hard-working Southern peach farmers. Dorothea Benton Frank offers a funny, sharp, and deeply empathetic novel of two very different worlds—of limousines and pickup trucks, caviars and pigs, skyscrapers and ocean spray—filled with a delightful cast of characters who all have something to hide and a lot to learn. A difference in legal opinions, a headlong dive from grace, and an abrupt twist will reveal the truth of who they are and demonstrate, when it truly counts, what kind of grit they have. Are they living the life they want, what regrets do they hold, and how would they remake their lives if they were given the invitation to do so? CD- 25 LP-36 BK-83

The story of Arthur Truluv : a novel

September

By Berg, Elizabeth

Summary "Arthur, a widower, meets Maddy, an angry and friendless teenage girl, while visiting his late wife at the cemetery, where he goes every day for lunch. Against all odds, the two strike up a friendship that pulls them out of a serious rut. They band together with Arthur's nosy neighbor Lucille, to create lives that are truly worth living. Proving that life's most precious moments are sweeter when shared, they go from strangers, to friends, to an untraditional but loving family. Betrayal, loneliness, romance and family are at the heart of this honey of a book, a must-read for fans of Elizabeth Berg's early work. This is a story about life being affirmed at all ages, old and young, and about finding happiness when hope seems lost." CD-13 LP-35 BK-79

The whistling season

October

By Doig, Ivan.

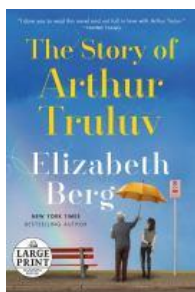
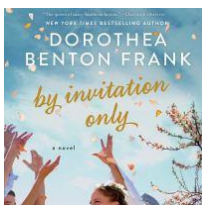
Summary "Can't cook but doesn't bite." So begins the ad offering the services of an "A-1 housekeeper" that draws the attention of widower Oliver Milliron in the fall of 1909. And so also begins the unforgettable season that deposits the noncooking, nonbiting, ever-whistling Rose Llewellyn and her font-of-knowledge brother, Morris Morgan, in Marias Coulee, Montana. When the schoolmarm runs off with an itinerant preacher, Morris is pressed into service, setting the stage for the "several kinds of education" - none of them of the textbook variety - Morris and Rose will bring to Oliver, his three sons, and the rambunctious students in the region's one-room schoolhouse.. CD-2 LP-7 BK-30

Where the forest meets the stars

November

By Vanderah, Glendy

Summary A mysterious child teaches two strangers how to love and trust again. After the loss of her mother and her own battle with breast cancer, Joanna Teale returns to her graduate research on nesting birds in rural Illinois, determined to prove that her recent hardships have not broken her. When a mysterious child who shows up at her cabin, barefoot and covered in bruises, Joanna enlists the help of her reclusive neighbor, Gabriel Nash, to solve the mystery of the charming child. But the more time they spend together, the more questions they have. How does a young girl not only read but understand Shakespeare? Why do good things keep happening in her presence? And why aren't Jo and Gabe checking the missing children's website anymore? Though the three have formed an incredible bond, they know difficult choices must be made. CD-8 LP-0 BK-22



If you would like to swap a non-fiction for one of the other selections, here are a few suggestions.

[Memorial Drive : a daughter's memoir](#)

By Trethewey, Natasha D.

Summary At age nineteen, Natasha Trethewey had her world turned upside down when her former stepfather shot and killed her mother. In this memoir, she explores the way this experience lastingly shaped the artist she became.

CD-5 LP-5 BK-58

[The immortal life of Henrietta Lacks](#)

By Skloot, Rebecca

Summary Documents the story of how scientists took cells from an unsuspecting descendant of freed slaves and created a human cell line that has been kept alive indefinitely, enabling discoveries in such areas as cancer research, in vitro fertilization, and gene mapping.

CD-16 LP-10 BK-56

[Prairie fires : the American dreams of Laura Ingalls Wilder](#)

By Fraser, Caroline

Summary "Millions of devoted readers believe they know Laura Ingalls -- the pioneer girl who survived blizzards and near-starvation on the Great Plains and went on to write the famous autobiographical books. But the full saga of her life has never been told. Now Caroline Fraser, editor of the Library of America's Little House series, masterfully fills in the gaps. For all the hardships Wilder's books describe, her life was harder and grittier. With fresh insights and new discoveries, Prairie Fires reveals the complex woman whose classic stories grip us to this day."

CD-5 LP-12 BK-55.

