

# **CHRISTIANITY AND CULTURE IN CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE**

OR

## **CALVARY BOOK LOVERS**

2020 - 2021

**Purpose of the Series:** Exploration of contemporary literature and issues of 21st century society through the eyes of faith. This will be a "novel" approach to the ethics, values and theology of our culture which we hope will stimulate the group to question and interact around the themes that emerge.

**Format:** The group will meet monthly, reading a book each time in preparation for the discussion to follow. The leaders will primarily be facilitators of the discussion, not experts on the book. The interaction will be informal and hopefully provocative. Each meeting will be one and one-half hours.

**Time: Third Monday of each month, 7:00 – 8:30 P.M.,** where designated  
Probably we will meet by Zoom unless in person is possible

**Leaders:** Leadership is shared by members of the group by volunteering with another, all of whom love to read books.

**Register to Attend:** Everyone is welcome and you may come to one or all. Please let us know of your interest by contacting Gordon Kieft with a call at 720-201-5212 or email at [gordonkieft@msn.com](mailto:gordonkieft@msn.com) or Judy Griswold at [jgandjm@aol.com](mailto:jgandjm@aol.com)

### **Date Title**

### **Author**

Sept.21 Just Mercy

Bryan Stevenson

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption, by Bryan Stevenson. A powerful true story about the Equal Justice Initiative, founded by the author, the people it represents, and the importance of confronting injustice. It's an inspiring argument for compassion in the pursuit of true justice.

Oct. 19. The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek Kim Richardson

The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek, by Kim Michele Richardson. The book is about the Packhorse Librarian Program of the WPA in the 1930's. It's a tribute to the power of books and the librarians who sacrifice to make sure we have them. The story follows Cussy Mary Carter, a descendant of the Fugates, notable for having been carriers of a genetic trait that led to the disease methemoglobinemia, which gives sufferers blue-tinged skin. Viewed as "colored" by fellow Kentuckians, those with the condition are regularly looked down upon by others.

Nov. 16 American Wolf

Nate Blakeslee

American Wolf, by Nate Blakeslee. Wolves were re-introduced into Yellowstone National Park twenty-some years ago. This book features O-Six, a tough and smart alpha male that caught the attention of park naturalists and wolf-watchers throughout the area. The author gives us a very different sort of biography—the saga of a single female wolf and her exploits in Yellowstone National Park.

Jan. 18    The Pioneers: The Heroic Story of the Settlers Who Brought the American Ideal West    by David McCullough

The Pioneers: The Heroic Story of the Settlers Who Brought the American Ideal West, by David McCullough. The author rediscovers an important chapter in the American story that's "As resonant today as ever," says the Wall Street Journal. McCullough describes the settling of the Northwest Territory by courageous pioneers who overcame incredible hardships to build a community based on ideals that would define our country.

Feb. 15    The End of October                      Lawrence Wright

The End of October, by Lawrence Wright. The story is an electrifying thriller about a mysterious killer virus bringing the world to its knees. The novel features accounts of past plagues and pandemics, descriptions of pathogens and how they work, and dark notes about global warming.

Mar. 15    The Alice Network                              Kate Quinn

The Alice Network, by Kate Quinn. Both funny and heartbreaking, this epic journey of two courageous women is an unforgettable tale of little known wartime glory and sacrifice. This novel is about a female spy recruited to the real-life Alice Network in France during World War I and an unconventional American socialite searching for her cousin in 1947. They are brought together in a mesmerizing story of courage and redemption.

Apr. 19    Born a Crime    Trevor Noah

Born a Crime, by Trevor Noah. This is a memoir of Trevor Noah (popular black comedian) and his early years growing up in South Africa as apartheid ended. The son of a black mother and a white father, Noah regularly had to acclimate to a variety of fraught situations, forcing him to think critically about race and the country's legacy of racism and colonialism.

May 17    This Tender Land                                      William Kent Krueger

1932, Minnesota—the Lincoln School is a pitiless place where hundreds of Native American children, forcibly separated from their parents, are sent to be educated. It is also home to an orphan named Odie O'Banion, a lively boy whose exploits earn him the superintendent's wrath. Forced to flee, he and his brother Albert, their best friend Mose, and a brokenhearted little girl named Emmy steal away in a canoe, heading for the mighty Mississippi and a place to call their own.

Over the course of one unforgettable summer, these four orphans will journey into the unknown and cross paths with others who are adrift, from struggling farmers and traveling faith healers to displaced families and lost souls of all kinds. With the feel of a modern classic, *This Tender Land* is an enthralling, big-hearted epic that shows how the magnificent American landscape connects us all, haunts our dreams, and makes us whole.

Other reading suggestions not used:

- The Guardians – John Grisham
- White Fragility – Robin DiAngelo
- The Girl from Widow Hills – Megan Miranda
- Beloved – Toni Morrison

We will publish a further list when we begin.