



Thursday Evenings!

Briarcliff Manor Public Library

with the Westchester Great Books Council

**Contemporary Fiction by
Award-Winning Authors**

Book Discussion Series #46- Spring 2024

Attention all readers! Are you looking for a book discussion of thought-provoking and well written books? Then join us on Thursday evenings at the Briarcliff Manor Public Library for our in-person Contemporary Fiction by Award-Winning Authors discussion series. Skilled leaders will help participants explore and interpret novels by today's award-winning authors. Gain new insights into these books through lively conversations with other inquisitive readers.

Our Spring 2024 selections are described below. Library copies are available to pick up one month before each discussion – or you may purchase your own book. These titles can also be downloaded from one of the library's free eBook services. It is recommended to have a copy of the book with you during the discussion.

Thursday, March 14: 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

***This Other Eden* by Paul Harding (2010 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction; Shortlisted for the 2023 Booker Prize)**

"In 1792, formerly enslaved Benjamin Honey and his Irish wife, Patience, discover an island where they can make a life together. Over a century later, the Honeys' descendants and a diverse group of neighbors are desperately poor, isolated, and often hungry, but nevertheless protected from the hostility awaiting them on the mainland. During the tumultuous summer of 1912, Matthew Diamond, a retired, idealistic but prejudiced schoolteacher-turned-missionary, disrupts the community's fragile balance through his efforts to educate its children. His presence attracts the attention of authorities on the mainland who, under the influence of the eugenics-thinking popular among progressives of the day, decide to forcibly evacuate the island, institutionalize its residents, and develop the island as a vacation destination" (Excerpted from WLS online catalog).

Thursday, April 18: 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

***Old God's Time* by Sebastian Barry (2017 Costa Book of the Year; Longlisted for the 2023 Booker Prize)**

"Tom Kettle's quiet seaside existence, nine months into his retirement from the police force, is upended by a knock on the door. Two young detectives from his old squad have come to consult on a cold case regarding the death of a priest, on which Tom and his former partner were the lead investigators. A subsequent visit from the police chief, his former colleague, indicates that Tom may be more of a suspect than a collaborator. As the mystery unfolds, secrets and ghosts come to haunt him. Having been raised and abused in a Catholic orphanage, he eventually found happiness with an adored wife, herself an orphanage survivor. But his years as a husband and father are behind him as he struggles with an unreliable memory to uncover the past and to help a troubled neighbor escape her violent husband" (Excerpted from *Library Journal*).

Thursday, May 16: 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

***Horse* by Geraldine Brooks (2006 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction)**

"A discarded painting in a junk pile, a skeleton in an attic, and the greatest racehorse in American history: from these strands, a Pulitzer Prize winner braids a sweeping story of spirit, obsession, and injustice across American history....Based on the remarkable true story of the record-breaking thoroughbred Lexington, *Horse* is a novel of art and science, love and obsession, and our unfinished reckoning with racism" (Excerpted from WLS online catalog).

Registration is required by email to Lorraine Isaac at Lisaac@briarcliffmanorlibrary.org.

For more information, please call the library at 914-941-7072 or visit our website.

Briarcliff Manor Public Library, 1 Library Road www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org