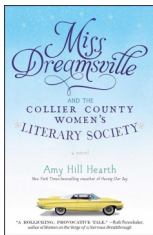


For the Love of Reading

Booksplus Discussion, Sunday Nov. 2 at 2: Miss Dreamsville and the Collier County Women's Literary Society



[view in catalog](#)

What happens when an energetic, middle-aged Bostonian moves to a sleepy town in Florida in 1962? First, she starts a radio show under the persona of Miss Dreamsville and secondly forms a book club. Ex-Bostonian Jackie Hart starts a ruckus when she invites people of other races and sexual persuasions to the club in a decidedly racist, homophobic town where a divorcee is considered socially-risky and improper.

Narrated by a lovable octagenarian, Dora, who does not fit into Naples herself, this novel discusses important issues such as racism, feminism, and homophobia while presenting an interesting mix of characters. With a backdrop of serious and important issues, it provides a humorous and entertaining read.

In her debut novel Amy Hearth manages to take on both the Ku Klux Klan, North versus South, the nature of community, and newcomer angst to Naples, Florida. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on October 29, 2014

[Miss Dreamsville and the Collier County Women's Literary Society](#)

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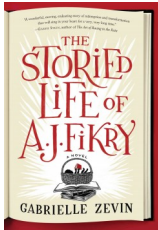
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The Storied Life of A.K. Fikry



[view in catalog](#)

Like bookstores? Like islands off the coast of New England? Favor novels that feature an orphan and a single dad? Drawn to love stories especially ones where the couple start off at each other's throats? Have a thing for rare manuscripts especially those of Edgar Allen Poe? If so this charming book-celebratory novel is just your thing.

The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry begins with publisher's rep, Amelia Loman (?a tall dandelion of a woman") disembarking from a ferry to visit a small bookstore on Alice Island to go over the winter accounts for her publisher, Knightley Press. The owner, the very curmudgeonly A.J. Fikry, is decidedly unfriendly and shocked by the fact that the old book rep has not come. Loman tells him that he has died and then proceeds to push her favorite book, a memoir by a widower dealing with his bereavement.

For Fikry this hits too close to home but he does not tell Alice why. He has recently lost Nic, his intelligent and beautiful wife while she was pregnant with their first child. Fikry begins a delightful rant about all the books he does not like: postmodern, post apocalyptic, magical realism, ones with multiple fonts, children's books, poetry, YA, etc. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on October 22, 2014

[The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry](#)

[Fiction](#)

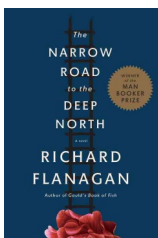
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Man Booker Prize Awarded to Australian Novelist



[view in catalog](#)

The Man Booker Prize winner for 2014 was announced on Tuesday. Richard Flanagan, a popular and highly-regarded Australian novelist, won it for his book *The Narrow Road to the Deep North*, a historical novel set during WWII.

It's about the construction of the Thai-Burma railroad, known as the Death Railway. For an odd bit of symmetry, Flanagan's father, who worked on this railway during World War II, died on the very day that Flanagan finished his book.

If you follow book news, you already know that this is the first year that American authors have been allowed to compete for the Booker, and two Americans made the short list: Karen Joy Fowler (*We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves*) and Joshua Ferris (*To Rise Again at a Decent Hour*)

). [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on October 16, 2014

[The Narrow Road to the Deep North](#)

[Award Winner](#)

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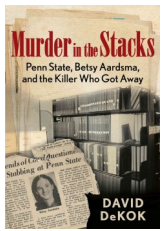
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Murder in the Stacks



[view in catalog](#)

If one single event stands out in the memory of my first semester in State College, Pa., it's the murder of an English graduate student that happened in the library. Before reading this book, I would have guessed it occurred just a week or two into term, rather than toward its end?so much did it color life for the rest of my college experience in Happy Valley, Pa. Yes, this remote mountain valley in almost the exact center of Pa. is actually named that.

Most of my dorm-mates felt absolute terror after the murder. They literally would not leave the building alone after dark. I remember big gangs of young women walking together in a phalanx toward the library to study. I joined them one night, but that was it. I could not time my departures and arrivals and function in such a timid, emotionally-wrought group.

And though this horrible crime happened decades ago, it still has not been officially ?solved.? But the author, a Harrisburg journalist, has come up with some compelling facts that point to a specific fellow grad student. A student in fact that went on to continue his PhD studies and remained on campus for four or five more years. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on October 13, 2014

[Murder in the stacks : Penn State, Betsy Aardsma, and the killer who got away](#)

[Crime](#)

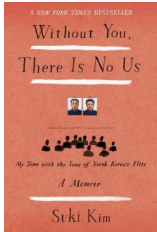
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Without You, There is No Us: My Time with the Sons of North Korea's Elite



[view in catalog](#)

This well-written memoir about teaching in a college in North Korea the year Kim Jong-il died sent shivers up my spine. The author, Suki Kim, an American writer, who spent part of her childhood in South Korea and is fluent in the language, had visited North Korea several times. Each time she felt divorced from the people and prevented by her "minders" (they were actually called that) from getting a true understanding of what contemporary life was like in the country. Emotionally, Kim felt connected to the country because part of her family lived there. Kim's mother had often told her stories about how her eldest brother disappeared and was never seen again when he was taken from a truck during the Korean War. The family was divided from other aunts and uncles and cousins who lived across the divide.

Kim, primarily a journalist, had taught at a college in the states and sometime around 2010 heard that a Bible college, financed by Americans, was soon to open near Pyongyang. The very idea sounded strange—a culture that scorned religion was allowing westerners to open a bible college by the capital? [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on October 7, 2014

[Without You, There is No Us: My Time with the Sons of North Korea's Elite](#)

[Memoir](#)

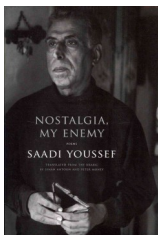
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Nostalgia, My Enemy



[view in catalog](#)

A great way to explore another culture is through poetry. This book, by one of the best living writers in Arabic, Saadi Youssef, does just that. It also provides beautiful poetry.

Youssef writes about all the traditional topics: love, nature, the changing seasons, and daily activities but he also describes his pain and anger at seeing the damage to his home country. In "A Difficult Variation" he describes his wishes for his native country, "Peace be upon Iraq's hills, its two rivers, the bank and the bend, / upon the palm trees / and the English hamlet gently dragging its clouds."

He writes deeply poignant poems about Iraq. In one he asks, "Is it your fault that once you were born in that country? / Three quarters of a century / and you still pay from your ebbing blood / its tax?" [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on September 30, 2014

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