

Missouri ESO Newsletter-September 2022

**Night Road** by Kristin Hannah. Sent by Marilyn Stone.

Jude Farraday devoted her life to her twins and they lived up to her expectations until at one senior night party the drinking got out of hand. Jude’s life was destroyed when her daughter Mia, was killed in a car crash, as was the life of her daughter’s best friend, Lexie, and the twin brother Zack. Would Jude ever be able to have a normal life again, to forgive, to accept the Zack’s and Lexie’s love for each other was real in spite of their age. A good read.

**The Six** by Laura Thompson. Sent by Alicia Thomas.

Born to Lord and Lady Redesdale, the 6 Mitford girls, experienced an upbringing steeped in eccentricity. With brains, beauty, and a scathing sense of humor, the press heralded the girls as celebrities before they did anything to merit such praise. Nancy, the oldest was a socialist and well known writer. Pamela, married the millionaire scientist Derek Jackson and was happy at home with her kitchen garden and tending to her animals. Diana made a splash on British society when she married the brewing heir Bryan Guinness, but it was her affair with the leader of the British Union of Fascists that brought her lifelong infamy. Unity took up with the fascist cause moving to Germany at age 19 and fulfilled her ambition of meeting Adolf Hitler. Jessica eloped with her fellow communist cousin, Esmond and ran off to fight the fascists during the Spanish Civil War and later moved to the US where she fought for civil rights. Deborah led a contented country life, riding and hunting.

**The Big Hustle** by Jim Wahlberg. Sent by Connie Robley.

This is a story of Jim Wahlberg and his life. At 22 years old her found himself in prison for the second time, sentenced to six to nine years. Since this wasn’t his first time in prison and he had learned some things from living on the streets of Dorchester, Massachusetts he knew his way out from completing his sentence was to be a model prisoner. So, he hustled, giving the illusion that he was going to change so he could get out and go back to the life of drugs and crime. What he didn’t know was that Catholic priest that he thought he was hustling was actually hustling him back. Jim is the fifth of nine children and was raised by working-class Irish Catholic parents. He learned to hustle early in his life to gain attention. The book is a powerful story of how he pulled himself out of his life of crime through the grace of God. He writes how his faith would put him back on the road to recovery over and over again.

**Off the Chain** by Janice Thompson. Sent by Bethel DeSpain.

Marigold is trying to rescue a dog in a drainage pipe, when her friends call her to come out of the pipe. She finally is able to get the dog and she and the dog come out of the pipe very dirty. A police officer is waiting and believes Marigold to be homeless and sleeping in the pipe. He doesn’t believe her story that she lives in a nice apartment because her car is missing and puts the girls in the back of the police car. He then gets a call about a break in, which happens to be at the veterinary clinic where the girls work. The rest of the book is about Marigold rescuing dogs and finding homes for them.

**The Diamond Eye** by Kate Quinn. Sent by Mary Ridge.

Based on the life of sniper Ludmila Pavlichenko, this is a thriller suggesting an attempt on Franklin D. Roosevelt’s life by an American sniper paid for by FDR enemies. Mila is a Soviet soldier credited with 309 kills of Nazis invading her country during WWII. She has a younger son, an estranged husband, and is a history student before being thrust into becoming “lady death”. The epilogue tells of Mila’s real friendship with Eleanor Roosevelt and other true parts incorporated into the novel.

**An Accidental Woman** by Barbara Delinsky. Sent by Debbie Barber.

Reporter Griffen Hughes comments on a photo in his brother’s office. His brother Randy is with the FBI and this tips him to a woman wanted for murder. This woman Lisa Matlock looks just like Heather Malone. Heather is best friends with Poppy Blake. Griffen had met Poppy a few years prior and wants to get to know her better. She sent him packing before, now she will probably hate him. His only chance is to help clear Heather’s name.

**There’s Nothing That I Wouldn’t Do If You Would Be My POSSLQ\*** by Charles Osgood. Sent by Cindy McEvoy.

This was hilariously wonderful! I loved Charles Osgood on CBS Sunday Morning and hated to see him go and was delighted to see works from his much earlier career. What a poet! Who else would take topics of the day (lates 70s and early 80s) and set them to rhyme; a bank robbery, a missing satellite, a poor homeowner who changed out his method of heating. Wonderful poetry and clever rhyme. It even spurred me to look up the topics and I found his facts were spot on true.

**Servant Leadership** by James C. Hunter. Sent by Rosemary Douglas.

Leadership is more than being the person in charge. It’s the influence we have when mentoring and developing others to help them realize what they can do, helping them find their sparkle! From a GFWC perspective, I enjoy this theory of leadership because it puts the focus on the club and getting members involved so they realized hidden talents and ultimately the entire club becomes stronger. This theory is also beneficial to the people we assist with projects so they build self-esteem.

**Land of Wolves** by Craig Johnson. Sent by Zona Burk.

Wyoming Sheriff Walt Longmire and his deputies work overtime to find out who murdered a Basque sheep herder at the top of a mountain and tried to make it look like suicide. Walt encounters a lone wolf who maybe nibbled on the dead body. The sheep owner then disappears with his grandson. All outside and on the very cold cusp of spring.

**Little Pilgrim’s Big Journey** by Tyler Van Halteren. Sent by Kelsey Fitzgerald.

This is the first book in a two-part illustrated adaptation of John Bunyan’s *Pilgrim’s Progress.* Christian is on a journey to the Celestial City. On his way, he encounters many people and many struggles. He questions whether to turn back and if he has the ability to make it to the King. The book includes colorful, captivating illustrations and summaries at the end of each chapter. Though geared for ages 4-10, I think anyone can get enjoyment out of the illustrated chapter book adaptation of *Pilgrim’s Progress*. I highly recommend for purchase as a gift, as it is beautiful with a cloth covering and gilded pages.

**Where Tomorrows Aren’t Promised** by Carmelo Anthony. Sent by Rev. Linda Wansing.

Carmelo is and NBA all-star. The book talks about how hard it was to grow up in the inner city in the projects. His father died at a young age, and he had a step-father. The book, like most books of people growing up in the projects that make their way out, captured my attention to learn how he did get out. I find it interesting to learn how some people get out of the projects and how others do not.

**James Patterson** by James Patterson. Sent by Pam Carr.

Being one of the greatest story teller’s of our times, Patterson told a fantastic autobiography. His life was filled with stories that his readers could relate to as well as lear from some of life’s lessons along the way. He came from a hard working middle class family from Newburgh, NY and turned his life into becoming a great writer. This book was pure delight to read.

**The Seed Keeper** by Diane Wilson. Sent by Mary Ridge.

Rosalie Iron Wing tells her life beginning with being in foster care after her mother disappears and her father leaves to hunt one day and never returns. He has been a science teacher who has tried to teach her Dakota ways and how to survive in nature. She is befriended by Gaby Makespeace and a farmer who offers to marry her to give her refuge from a cruel, selfish foster care woman. After years of watching her husband and son use white man farming techniques, she finds a relative who passes on Indian corn seeds to her and has her try to begin to use traditional ways of gardening.

**Little Bee** by Chris Cleave. Sent by Debbie Barber.

Although this is a work of fiction, it opened my eyes to how life maybe was or “is” for refugees. The book started out rough and I didn’t know if I would finish it. I’m glad I did, it got much better. This is a story of a girl who takes on the name Little Bee in hopes of not being found. She runs from her country to save her life and finds herself in trouble in England where she was hoping for a life to start over. Worth the read even though the ending is disappointing.

**Where Daffodils Bloom** by Leya Delray. Sent by Cathy Judy.

Based on a true story of a WWII bride, this historical novel brings a bride to America and then the hard life they have to carve out here while missing the English life she left. Like this book very much.

**No Land to Light On** by Yara Zgheib. Sent by Connie Robley.

This book is about a young Syrian couple. Sama had come to America on a Harvard scholarship. She loves the freedom of America and the education she is receiving. She meets Hadi who also has arrived in America from Syria, but he comes as a refugee. They meet at a party and fall in love. She becomes pregnant and they both are thrilled to be bringing and raising a child in the US. However, Hadi’s father dies, and he feels that he must return to attend the funeral. On the day he is to return to America, Sama goes to the airport to meet him, but he is not on the plane. She does not realize that he can’t return to the US due to a newly imposed travel ban. The story is heartbreaking of two people who are desperately trying to reunite and want the give their child a life and freedom that they never experienced growing up.

**Murder at Archly Manor** by Sara Rosett. Sent by Marilyn Stone.

Set in the 1920’s Olive Belgrave finds herself a victim of the times; young society women are supposed to get married, NOT be employed like a common worker. Olive’s father has remarried and his new wife does not want Olive around but finding suitable employment is providing impossible. She does have a remarkable knack of puzzling out mysteries and by the end of this novel has set herself up as a “high society lady detective” after having solved the murder of her cousin’s fiancé.

**Cold Sassy Tree** by Olive Ann Burns. Sent by Alicia Thomas.

In the small town of Cold Sassy Georgia in 1906, 14 year old Will Tweety tells his story of growing up and the drama surrounding his family. His grandfather marries a younger woman soon after his wife passes away. His daughters, Will’s mother and aunt are horrified and concerned about the scandal that’s sure to spread through the town. It is a very southern and heartwarming read. I believe it is one in a series this author has written. I thoroughly enjoyed it and would recommend it.

**The Residence: Inside the Private World of the White House** by Kate Andersen Brower. Sent by Kelsey Fitzgerald.

The White House is one of the most famous houses in America. Brower gives readers a firsthand look inside the White House through accounts of the service staff. I’ve never given much thought to all of the people that keep the famous house running. Many of these men and women have devoted their entire careers and lives to serving our nation’s leaders. The accounts are humorous, saddening, inspiring, and eye opening. This is not an expose, but instead, details the day-to-day life of those honored to serve our presidents. I would definitely recommend this book.

**We Begin at the End** by Chris Whitaker. Sent by Cathy Judy.

The story of a young outlaw protecting her younger brother and her mother who can’t take care of herself. It’s also a story of a policeman who must deal with testimony that sent his best friend to prison. Their lives are intwined and when the friend is released from prison, there becomes a story of support and families they create. Loved this book. Highly recommend.

Happy reading! I hope you find a book in the newsletter to add to your “must read” list!

**Welcome** to our new ESO member Kathy Timson. Kathy is from the GFWC Sorosis Club of Springfield. Welcome to ESO Kathy.

**Zoom Opportunities:**

Our GFWC ESO chairman posted on facebook that there will be a Zoom meeting on October 19th at 7pm to discuss the book, *The Wedding Vail* by Kristy Woodson Harvey if anyone is interested in reading this book and joining in the book discussion on Zoom. The link to the meeting is on the GFWC ESO Book Club facebook page.

There will also be a Zoom session on November 16th at 7pm ET for a book discussion on “The Essay” by Robin Yocum. Information can be found on the GFWC ESO Book Club facebook page.

Lisa Cook

GFWC MO ESO chair 2022-2024