



GFWC INDIANA FEDERATION OF CLUBS

INDEPENDENT STUDY PROGRAM

EPSILON SIGMA OMICRON

SPECIAL READING LIST # 114

2024

Epsilon Sigma Omicron

Epsilon Sigma Omicron (ESO) began as an adult education program of the GFWC Indiana Federation of Clubs to assist and encourage clubwomen, individually or as a club, to read and study systematically. The meaning of the Greek letters is: “Enlighten Your Own Pathway.”

A Federation clubwoman qualifies for membership by following the authorized ESO reading courses, which list books as well as a point value assigned to each book. To obtain the current list, please write the State ESO Chairman.

The reader sends a report on each book (no longer an actual book report, but the name of the book and author, the number of the book, group and number of points assigned to the book if it is on the official reading list) to the State ESO Chairman. If the book is not on the list, the report should contain the name of the author and book title along with the number of pages-if known. If the book is read electronically, the number of pages can be determined by the State ESO Chairman.

The chairman keeps a record of the books read and points earned, and a certificate is awarded when the reader has earned 140 points. A reader may order back reading lists and read and report on any book from any list. When the reader has accumulated points sufficient to earn four certificates, she is eligible to purchase and wear the Epsilon Sigma Omicron pin.

Further awards include: Star (10 certificates); Torch (16 certificates); First Century (100 books); Second Century (200 books); and further Century awards.

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Group I World Affairs and History

1 .A Fever in the Heartland: The Ku Klux Klan's Plot to Take Over America, and the Woman Who Stopped Them by Timothy Egan

"With meticulous detective work, Timothy Egan shines a light on one of the most sinister chapters in American history—how a viciously racist movement, led by a murderous conman, rose to power in the early twentieth century. A Fever in the Heartland is compelling, powerful, and profoundly resonant today."—David Grann, author of THE WAGER and KILLERS OF THE FLOWER MOON 20 points (recommended by Andra Sudler)

2. Age of Revolutions: Progress and Backlash from 1600 to the Present by Fareed Zakaria

As few public intellectuals can, Zakaria combines intellectual range, deep historical insight, and uncanny prescience to once again reframe and illuminate our turbulent present. His bold, compelling arguments make this book essential reading in our age of revolutions. 30 points

3. An Unfinished Love Story: A Personal History of the 1960s (April 16, 2024) by Doris Kearns Goodwin

One of America's most beloved historians artfully weaves together biography, memoir, and history. She takes you along on the emotional journey she and her husband, Richard (Dick) Goodwin embarked upon in the last years of his life. 30 points

4. Oak Island Odyssey: A Masonic Quest by Scott Clarke A compelling case for the connection between Freemasonry and the notorious Oak Island treasure, written by a historian and Curse of Oak Island guest expert. If you think you know everything about the secrets of Oak Island, think again. 20 points

5. Reading the Constitution: Why I Chose Pragmatism, Not Textualism by Stephen Breyer

The relatively new judicial philosophy of textualism dominates the Supreme Court. Textualists claim that the right way to interpret the Constitution and statutes is to read the text carefully and examine the language as it was understood at the time the documents were written. 20 points

6. The Deerfield Massacre: A Surprise Attack, a Forced March, and the Fight for Survival in Early America by James L. Swanson

The author uncovers the little-known and pivotal tragedy of a deadly war between Native Americans and colonists in 1704 New England. 20 points

7. The Life and Times of Hannah Crafts: The True Story of The Bondwoman's Narrative by Gregg Hecimovich

In 1857, a woman escaped enslavement on a North Carolina plantation and fled to a farm in New York. In hiding, she worked on a manuscript that would make her famous long after her death. The novel, The Bondwoman's Narrative, was first published in 2002 to great acclaim, but the author's identity remained unknown. Over a decade later, Professor Gregg Hecimovich unraveled the mystery of the author's name, and, in The Life and Times of Hannah Crafts, he finally tells her story. 30 points

8. The Nazi Conspiracy: The Secret Plot to Kill Roosevelt, Stalin, and Churchill by Brad Meltzer, Josh Mensch In 1943, as the war against Nazi Germany raged abroad, President Franklin Roosevelt had a critical goal: a face-to-face sit-down with his allies Joseph Stalin and Winston Churchill. This first-ever meeting of the Big Three in Tehran, Iran, would decide some of the most crucial strategic details of the war. Yet when the Nazis found out about the meeting, their own secret plan took shape—an assassination plot that would’ve changed history. 30 points

9. The Taking of Getty Oil: Pennzoil, Texaco, and the Takeover Battle That Made History by Steve Coll Pulitzer Prize-winning author Steve Coll is renowned for “his ability to take complicated, significant business stories and turn them into quick-reading engaging narratives” (Chicago Tribune). Coll is at the height of his talents in this “riveting” tale of one of the most spectacular—and catastrophic—corporate takeovers of all time (Newsday). 30 points

10. The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny and Murder by David Grann The Wager is a grand tale of human behavior at the extremes told by one of our greatest nonfiction writers. Grann’s recreation of the hidden world on a British warship rivals the work of Patrick O’Brian, his portrayal of the castaways’ desperate straits stands up to the classics of survival writing such as *The Endurance*, and his account of the court martial has the savvy of a Scott Turow thriller. As always with Grann’s work, the incredible twists of the narrative hold the reader spellbound. 20 points

Group II About People

11. Being Henry: The Fonz . . . and Beyond Hardcover by Henry Winkler Henry Winkler launched into prominence as “The Fonz” in the beloved *Happy Days*, has transcended the role that made him who he is. Brilliant, funny, and widely-regarded as the nicest man in Hollywood (though he would be the first to tell you that it’s simply not the case, he’s really just grateful to be here), Henry shares in this achingly vulnerable memoir the disheartening truth of his childhood, the difficulties of a life with severe dyslexia, the pressures of a role that takes on a life of its own, and the path forward once your wildest dream seems behind you. 20 points

12. Capote's Women: A True Story of Love, Betrayal, and a Swan Song for an Era by Laurence Leamer This bestselling biographer delves into the years following the acclaimed publication of *Breakfast at Tiffany's* in 1958 and *In Cold Blood* in 1966, when Capote struggled with a crippling case of writer's block. While enjoying all the fruits of his success, he was struck with an idea for what he was sure would be his most celebrated novel...one based on the remarkable, racy lives of his very, very rich friends. 20 points

13. Did I Ever Tell You? By Genevieve Kingston This book reads like a novel but is an unforgettable true story. Genevieve (Gwen) Kingston was just eleven years old when her mother passed away, leaving behind a chest filled with gifts and letters to celebrate the milestones of Gwen's life and each of her birthdays until age thirty. When *Did I Ever Tell You?* opens, just three packages remain: engagement, marriage, and first baby. Tracing Gwen's coming-of-age, the book reveals a treasure hunt, with each gift and letter unveiling more about her mother, her family, and—ultimately—herself. 20 points

14. Finding Me by Viola Davis It's clear from the first page that Davis is going to serve a more intimate, unpolished account than is typical of the average (often ghost-written) celebrity memoir; *Finding Me* reads like Davis is sitting you down for a one-on-one conversation about her life, warts and all. 20 points (A repeat from the 2023 list based on the recommendation of Shirley Braner)

15. In the Form of a Question: The Joys and Rewards of a Curious Life by Amy Schneider In eighth grade, Amy was voted "Most likely to appear on Jeopardy!" by her classmates. Decades later, this trailblazer finally got her chance. Not only did she walk away with \$1.3 million while captivating the world with her impressive forty-game winning streak, but she made history and won an even greater prize—the joy of being herself on national television and blazing a trail for openly queer and transgender people around the world. Now, she shares her singular journey that led to becoming an unlikely icon and hero to millions. Her superpower: Boundless curiosity and fearless questioning. 20 points

16. King: A Life by Jonathan Eig A highly acclaimed biography of Dr. Martin Luther King. "Supple, penetrating, heartstring-pulling and compulsively readable . . . Eig's book is worthy of its subject." 30 points

17. Making It So: A Memoir by Patrick Stewart From his acclaimed stage triumphs to his legendary onscreen work in the *Star Trek* and *X-Men* franchises, Sir Patrick Stewart has captivated audiences around the world and across multiple generations with his indelible command of stage and screen. Now, he presents his long-awaited memoir, *Making It So*, a revealing portrait of an artist whose astonishing life—from his humble beginnings in Yorkshire, England, to the heights of Hollywood and worldwide acclaim—proves a story as exuberant, definitive, and enduring as the author himself. 30 points

18. My Name Is Barbra by Barbra Streisand The long-awaited memoir by the superstar of stage, screen, recordings, and television. Barbra Streisand is by any account a living legend, a woman who in a career spanning six decades has excelled in every area of entertainment. She is among the handful of EGOT winners (Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony) and has one of the greatest and most recognizable voices in the history of popular music. At 992 pages, well. Enough said. 40 points.

19. Oath and Honor: A Memoir and a Warning by Liz Cheney A gripping first-hand account of the January 6th, 2021, insurrection from inside the halls of Congress, from origins to aftermath, as Donald Trump and his enablers betrayed the American people and the Constitution—by the House Republican leader who dared to stand up to it. 20 points

20. Shakespeare: The Man Who Pays the Rent (April 23, 2024) by Judi Dench, Brendan O’Hea For the very first time, Judi opens up about every Shakespearean role she has played throughout her seven-decade career, from Lady Macbeth and Titania to Ophelia and Cleopatra. In a series of intimate conversations with actor & director Brendan O’Hea, she guides us through Shakespeare’s plays with incisive clarity, revealing the secrets of her rehearsal process and inviting us to share in her triumphs, disasters, and backstage shenanigans. 30 points

21. The Art Thief: A True Story of Love, Crime, and a Dangerous Obsession by Michael Finkel One of the most remarkable true-crime narratives of the twenty-first century: the story of the world’s most prolific art thief, Stéphane Breitwieser. • “The Art Thief, like its title character, has confidence, élan, and a great sense of timing.”—The New Yorker 20 points

22. The Counterfeit Countess: The Jewish Woman Who Rescued Thousands of Poles During the Holocaust by Elizabeth B. White, Joanna Sliwa The astonishing story of Dr. Josephine Janina Mehlberg—a Jewish mathematician who saved thousands of lives in Nazi-occupied Poland by masquerading as a Polish aristocrat—drawing on Mehlberg’s own unpublished memoir. 20 points

23. The Extraordinary Life of an Ordinary Man: A Memoir by Paul Newman (Author), David Rosenthal (Editor) The raw, candid, unvarnished memoir of an American icon. The greatest movie star of the past 75 years covers everything: his traumatic childhood, his career, his drinking, his thoughts on Marlon Brando, James Dean, Elizabeth Taylor, John Huston, his greatest roles, acting, his intimate life with Joanne Woodward, his innermost fears and passions and joys. With thoughts/comments throughout from Joanne Woodward, George Roy Hill, Tom Cruise, Elia Kazan and many others. 20 points (A very good book that will leave you thinking about the lives behind the camera. TH)

24. The Many Lives of Mama Love: A Memoir of Lying, Stealing, Writing, and Healing by Lara Love Hardin New York Times bestselling author Lara Love Hardin recounts her slide from soccer mom to opioid addict to jailhouse shot caller and her unlikely comeback as a highly successful ghostwriter in this harrowing, hilarious, no-holds-barred memoir. 20 points

25. White Lies: The Double Life of Walter F. White and America's Darkest Secret by A.J. Baime, Wayne Carr, et al. An “electrifying” biography of Walter White, a little-remembered Black civil rights leader who passed for white in order to investigate racist murders, help put the NAACP on the map, and change the racial identity of America forever. 30 points
Recommended by Shirley Braner

26. You Can't Have It All: The Basic B*tch Guide to Taking the Pressure Off (September 10, 2024) by Stassi Schroeder The two-time New York Times bestselling author, OG Vanderpump Rules star, and host of the successful chart-topping podcast Stassi is back and better than ever with a candid guide to rethinking the girl boss life, taking the pressure off, and lessons she's learned since becoming a mom of two. 20 points

Group III Religion & Philosophy

27. Applied Stoicism: Take Back Control of Your Chaotic Mind by Ralph K. Jones This book explores what it means to take control of the internal duel we all fight between order and chaos. Humans are our own worst enemy, and it is without a doubt that our consciousness and who we are is in a state of permanent flux throughout all stages of our lives! Applied Stoicism is a practical, easy-to-follow guide that gives you not only exercises you can undertake to improve your lives but also the underpinning knowledge. 20 points

28. Build the Life You Want: The Art and Science of Getting Happier by Arthur C. Brooks, Oprah Winfrey With insight, compassion, and hope, Brooks and Winfrey reveal how the tools of emotional self-management can change your life—immediately. They recommend practical, research-based practices to build the four pillars of happiness: family, friendship, work, and faith. And along the way, they share hard-earned wisdom from their own lives and careers as well as the witness of regular people whose lives are joyful despite setbacks and hardship. 20 points

29. FINALLY Stop Procrastinating: When Nothing Else Works, Unlock Your Hidden Power to Succeed by Linda Gannaway If you've bought the organizers, identified your priorities, and made the to-do lists – but you're still procrastinating – please know that it's entirely possible to “win” the Inner Game and get unstuck, quit running late, and stop taking SO long (if ever) to get things done. 20 points

30. It Is Finished: A 40-Day Pilgrimage Back to the Cross by Charles Martin Because before we can celebrate the resurrection, we need to backtrack to where Jesus has been, how He got there, and what His presence there accomplished. And while Satan can't change what happened on that Friday, he has been working ever since to hide what happened there. To obscure the work of the Cross. To avert our eyes. But on this 40-day pilgrimage your eyes will open wide and your heart will race as you discover the answer to the question that can change your life, Lord, why me? Why would you endure the cross and despise the shame, for me? 20 points

31 Passages to Eternity: Philosophic meditations in poetic form on the meaning of eternity for 72 famous persons (January 15, 2024) by James Winder As a philosopher once surmised: talent hits a target no one else can hit. Genius, he insisted, hits a target no one else can see. The greatest artists and thinkers are the greatest seers. They do not imagine ... only and merely. They study the facts, they think the facts, they feel the facts, until the facts, the acts of faith, the articles of invention, dissolve in the naked light of the hitherto unseen, until fact, faith, and invention fall away like Halloween masks, like swaddling clothes; and then, leaving behind the tricks and the treats, they teach us what to hallow: the nakedness of a newborn joy, perpetually born anew, a joy that can never die, because it never quite knows, but never fails to enjoy, how early it already is, and how young it was always going to be 30 points

32. Philosophy in the Aristotelian-Thomist Tradition: A Primer by Daniel Lowery The Aristotelian-Thomist Tradition has long had an enduring place in the history of Western philosophy, so much so, in fact, that it is referred to as the Perennial Tradition. Written specifically for those who are in formation for service in the church, this essential text examines the metaphysics, epistemology, and ethics associated with the Aristotelian-Thomist Tradition and brings its insights into conversation with other philosophical perspectives. The text's summary of philosophy's history and more recent developments in Thomistic thought provide useful context as well. Although written for those who are new to the academic discipline of philosophy, this text does not shy away from some of its thorniest issues. It will thus be of value not just in the classroom, but as a much-needed resource for those who hope to labor in the vineyard of pastoral service. 20 points

33. Somehow: Thoughts on Love by Anne Lamott In each chapter of Somehow, Lamott refracts all the colors of the spectrum. She explores the unexpected love for a partner later in life. The bruised (and bruising) love for a child who disappoints, even frightens. The sustaining love among a group of sinners, for a community in transition, in the wider world. The lessons she underscores are that love enlightens as it educates, comforts as it energizes, sustains as it surprises. 20 points

34. The 48 Laws of Power by Robert Greene, Joost Elffers Some laws teach the need for prudence ("Law 1: Never Outshine the Master"), others teach the value of confidence ("Law 28: Enter Action with Boldness"), and many recommend absolute self-preservation ("Law 15: Crush Your Enemy Totally"). Every law, though, has one thing in common: an interest in total domination. In a bold and arresting two-color package, The 48 Laws of Power is ideal whether your aim is conquest, self-defense, or simply to understand the rules of the game. 30 points

35. Time 2 GO: 17 Proven Techniques For Eliminating Time Killers, Bad Habits, Unproductive Distractions, and Procrastination (The Max Sampson Collection) by Max Sampson How often have you found yourself deep in a YouTube rabbit hole or endlessly watching one TikTok video after another... only to snap back to reality 3 hours later, wondering where the time went? We've all been there. The question is, why? Why on Earth do we all waste so much time knowing we have such a limited amount of it? A large part of the issue? You've been conditioned to equate being "busy" with being "productive." You've been led to believe if you're not constantly doing something or consuming something, you're wasting time. This has led to a strange paradox where we fill our hours with passive activities that give us the illusion of being busy, without necessarily being productive. 20 points

36. Unplug Your Robot: The Secret to Lasting Happiness by Karin Kiser You can feel enthusiastic and happy on a daily basis. Are you fired up in the morning, ready to jump out of bed and embrace the day with enthusiasm? Do you feel a sense of daily excitement? Of purpose? Or are you wondering right now if those things are even possible? They are. Optimism, joy and fulfillment are possible. Not just for some people. For you. All that is required is to unplug your robot. What is the robot? It's the part of you that...

- Wakes up at the same time and eats the same breakfast day after day
 - Drives to work without remembering any of it
 - Bombards you with nonstop thoughts
 - Considers busyness, competition, scarcity, anxiety and fear as a normal part of life.
- Life is about much more than this. 20 points

37. We've Got Issues: How You Can Stand Strong for America's Soul and Sanity by Phillip C. McGraw Ph.D. Dr. Phil employs his signature no-nonsense approach to analyze America's cultural crisis and offers practical, empirically based, action-oriented strategies to restore and support our country's collective mental health. 30 points

GROUP IV Special Interests

38. Dirty Laundry: Why Adults with ADHD Are So Ashamed and What We Can Do to Help by Disha Bose An empowering and witty guide to banishing shame and living your fullest life with ADHD—plus tips for loved ones on helping them navigate this world, too. 20 points

39. Dune (Penguin Galaxy) by Frank Herbert The best-selling science-fiction book of all time—part of Penguin Galaxy, a collectible series of six sci-fi/fantasy classics, featuring a series introduction by Neil Gaiman Science fiction’s supreme masterpiece, *Dune* will be forever considered a triumph of the imagination. Set on the desert planet Arrakis, it is the story of the boy Paul Atreides, who will become the mysterious man known as Muad’Dib. Paul’s noble family is named stewards of Arrakis, whose sands are the only source of a powerful drug called “the spice.” After his family is brought down in a traitorous plot, Paul must go undercover to seek revenge, and to bring to fruition humankind’s most ancient and unattainable dream. A stunning blend of adventure and mysticism, environmentalism and politics, *Dune* won the first Nebula Award, shared the Hugo Award, and formed the basis of what is undoubtedly the grandest epic in science fiction. 30 points

40. Floret Farm's Cut Flower Garden: Grow, Harvest, and Arrange Stunning Seasonal Blooms Illustrated by Erin Benzakein, author, Julie Chai Michele M. Waite, photographer "Among a sea of new florists and floral books, Floret Flowers stands out. Erin Benzakein's integrity, openness and passion for flowers is unmistakable. In her debut book she not only introduces us to the basics of growing our own flowers, she shares her deep love and understanding of gardening in a way that will leave even the most doubtful grower feeling inspired to get their hands in the dirt." 20 points

41. How to Keep House While Drowning: A Gentle Approach to Cleaning and Organizing by KC Davis LPC -How to see chores as kindnesses to your future self, not as a reflection of your worth -How to start by setting priorities -How to stagger tasks so you won’t procrastinate -How to clean in quick bursts within your existing daily routine -How to use creative shortcuts to transform a room from messy to functional. With KC’s help, your home will feel like a sanctuary again. It will become a place to rest, even when things aren’t finished. You will move with ease, and peace and calm will edge out guilt, self-criticism, and endless checklists. They have no place here. 20 points

42. My Beloved Monster: Masha, the Half-wild Rescue Cat Who Rescued Me by Caleb Carr Caleb Carr has had special relationships with cats since he was a young boy in a turbulent household, famously peopled by the founding members of the Beat Generation, where his steadiest companions were the adopted cats that lived with him both in the city and the country. As an adult, he has had many close feline companions, with relationships that have outlasted most of his human ones. But only after building a three-story home in rural, upstate New York did he enter into the most extraordinary of all of his cat pairings: Masha, a Siberian Forest cat who had been abandoned as a kitten and was languishing in a shelter when Caleb met her. She had hissed and fought off all previous carers and potential adopters, but somehow, she chose Caleb as her savior. 20 points

43. Outlive: The Science and Art of Longevity by Peter Attia MD, Bill Gifford A groundbreaking manifesto on living better and longer that challenges the conventional medical thinking on aging and reveals a new approach to preventing chronic disease and extending long-term health, from a visionary physician and leading longevity expert 30 points

44. It's Not About the Food: A Revolutionary Approach to Ending Your Battle With Food and Finding Freedom From Overeating by Alexandra Amor

Book 2 of 2: Freedom From Overeating The answers to healing your overeating habit have been within you all along. In fact, you might be surprised to learn that the drive you feel to overeat is actually your body's way of trying to get your attention and let you know you are now, and always have been, entirely whole. (Surprise!) There is a revolution happening in our psychological awareness about how being human works. This new understanding points us away from focusing on what we believe is wrong with us and instead reminds us that we always have all that we need. It flips the way we think about ourselves and our lives on its head. Seeing life this way has the power to reverse our overeating habit and bring us the sense of peace we've been 20 points

45. The Holy Grail of Investing: The World's Greatest Investors Reveal Their Ultimate Strategies for Financial Freedom (Tony Robbins Financial Freedom Series) Tony Robbins returns with the final book in his financial freedom trilogy by unveiling the power of alternative investments. Robbins, and renowned investor Christopher Zook, take you on a journey to interview a dozen of the world's most successful investors in private equity, private credit, private real estate, and venture capital. They share their favorite strategies and insights in this practical guidebook. 20 points

46. The New Menopause: Navigating Your Path Through Hormonal Change with Purpose, Power, and Facts by Mary Claire Haver MD Menopause is inevitable, but suffering through it is not! This is the empowering approach to self-advocacy that pioneering women's health advocate Dr. Mary Claire Haver takes for women in the midst of hormonal change in The New Menopause. A comprehensive, authoritative book of science-backed information and lived experience, it covers every woman's needs: 20 points

47. The Nocebo Effect: When Words Make You Sick by Michael Bernstein Ph.D., Charlotte Blease Ph.D., Cosima Locher Ph.D. An investigation of the nocebo effect—the placebo effect's evil twin. Can beliefs make you sick? Consider "The June Bug" incident from a US textile factory in the early 1960s. Many employees began to feel dizzy, had an upset stomach, and vomited. Some were even hospitalized. The illness was attributed to a mysterious bug biting workers. However, when the CDC investigated this outbreak, no bugs or any other cause of the illnesses could be identified. Instead, it appears to be an illness caused by the mind - that is, sickness due to expectation. 20 points

GROUP V Fiction

48. A Short Walk Through a Wide World: A Novel by Douglas Westerbeke The year is 1855 and young Aubrey Tourvel sets off on a global journey to fend off a mysterious disease that threatens her life if she stops moving. 20 points

49. Age of Vice: A Novel by Deepti Kapoor “Deeply addictive; this spellbinder would be easy to devour in one big gulp, but it’s worth savoring for Neda’s uncompromising take on what she terms India’s ‘losing age, the age of vice.’ The author possesses a talent great enough to match the massive scope of her subject.” 30 points

50. Be Mine: A Frank Bascombe Novel by Richard Ford Now in the twilight of life, a man who has occupied many colorful lives—sportswriter, father, husband, ex-husband, friend, real estate agent—Bascombe finds himself in the most sorrowing role of all: caregiver to his son, Paul, diagnosed with ALS. On a shared winter odyssey to Mount Rushmore, Frank, in typical Bascombe fashion, faces down the mortality that is assured each of us, and in doing so confronts what happiness might signify at the end of days. 20 points

51. Code Red: A Mitch Rapp Novel (Book 22 of 23) by Kyle Mills The Syrian government has created a highly addictive new narcotic that it plans to distribute throughout Europe. It’s a major threat to Losa’s business and he’s determined to stop it by any means necessary. Rapp is the perfect choice for the mission. Not only does he have extensive experience operating in the Middle East, but he’s also entirely expendable. 20 points

52. Counting Miracles: A Novel (September 24, 2024) by Nicholas Sparks Tanner Hughes was raised by his grandparents, following in his grandfather’s military footsteps to become an Army Ranger. His whole life has been spent abroad, and he is the proverbial rolling stone: happiest when off on his next adventure, zero desire to settle down. But when his grandmother passes away, her last words to him are find where you belong. She also drops a bombshell, telling him the name of the father he never knew—and where to find him. 20 points

53. Crook Manifesto: A Novel by Colson Whitehead The two-time Pulitzer Prize winner and bestselling author of Harlem Shuffle continues his Harlem saga in a powerful and hugely-entertaining novel that summons 1970s New York in all its seedy glory. 1973. The counter-culture has created a new generation, the old ways are being overthrown, but there is one constant, Pepper, Carney’s endearingly violent partner in crime. It’s getting harder to put together a reliable crew for hijackings, heists, and assorted felonies, so Pepper takes on a side gig doing security on a Blaxploitation shoot in Harlem. He finds himself in a freaky world of Hollywood stars, up-and-coming comedians, and celebrity drug dealers, in addition to the usual cast of hustlers, mobsters, and hit men. These adversaries underestimate the seasoned crook – to their regret. 20 points

54. Crow Mary by Kathleen Grissom Inspired by the real life of Crow Mary—an Indigenous woman in 19th-century North America. In 1872, sixteen-year-old Goes First, a Crow Native woman, marries Abe Farwell, a white fur trader. He gives her the name Mary, and they set off on the long trip to his trading post in Saskatchewan, Canada. Along the way, she finds a fast friend in a Métis named Jeannie; makes a lifelong enemy in a wolfer named Stiller; and despite learning a dark secret of Farwell’s past, falls in love with her husband. 20 points

55. Dead Fall: A Thriller (22 of 23) (The Scot Harvath Series) by Brad Thor In the war-ravaged borderlands of Ukraine, a Russian mercenary unit has gone rogue. Its members, conscripted from the worst prisons and mental asylums across Russia, are the most criminally violent, psychologically dangerous combatants to ever set foot upon the modern battlefield. When multiple American aid workers are killed, America’s top spy, Scot Harvath, is sent in to settle the score. But in a country so vast, will Harvath be able to find the men in question and, more importantly, will he be able to stop them before they can kill again? 20 points

56. Dirty Thirty (Stephanie Plum Book 30) by Janet Evanovich Stephanie Plum, Trenton’s hardest working, most underappreciated bounty hunter, is offered a freelance assignment that seems simple enough. Local jeweler Martin Rabner wants her to locate his former security guard, Andy Manley (a.k.a. Nutsy), who he is convinced stole a fortune in diamonds out of his safe. Stephanie is also looking for another troubled man, Duncan Dugan, a fugitive from justice arrested for robbing the same jewelry store on the same day. 20 points

57. End of Story by A.J. Finn From the author of *The Woman in the Window*, this is a story about a professor and detective-fiction expert is invited to stay at a mansion that is the scene of a mysterious disappearance from two decades old. Finn “conjures a Hitchcockian sense of places and things.” 30 points

58. Expiration Dates: A Novel by Rebecca Serle Daphne Bell believes the universe has a plan for her. Every time she meets a new man, she receives a slip of paper with his name and a number on it—the exact amount of time they will be together. The papers told her she’d spend three days with Martin in Paris; five weeks with Noah in San Francisco; and three months with Hugo, her ex-boyfriend turned best friend. Daphne has been receiving the numbered papers for over twenty years, always wondering when there might be one without an expiration. Finally, the night of a blind date at her favorite Los Angeles restaurant, there’s only a name: Jake. 20 points

59. Flags on the Bayou: A Novel by James Lee Burke From New York Times-bestselling author James Lee Burke comes a novel set in Civil War-era Louisiana as the South transforms and a brilliant cast of characters – enslaved and free women, plantation gentry, and battle-weary Confederate and Union soldiers – are caught in the maelstrom. 20 points

60. Fortune Teller (Miss Fortune Mysteries # 25) by Jana DeLeon With Carter off on a military mission, there's a new sheriff in town, and Fortune, Ida Belle, and Gertie have been tasked with not interfering. But then a young girl is pulled out of the swamp, unconscious and with no memory of how she got there. And when no one comes to claim her, Fortune knows they have to help. 20 points (What can I say, I am hooked! TH)

61. Fourth Wing (The Emphyrean, 1) Hardcover by Rebecca Yarros

"Suspenseful, sexy, and with incredibly entertaining storytelling, the first in Yarros' Emphyrean series will delight fans of romantic, adventure-filled fantasy." "Fourth Wing will have your heart pounding from beginning to end... A **fantasy** like you've never read before." Jennifer L. Armentrout 30 points

62. Happy Place by Emily Henry A couple who broke up months ago pretend to still be together for their annual weeklong vacation with their best friends 30 points

63. Holly by Stephen King *Holly* marks the triumphant return of beloved King character Holly Gibney. Readers have witnessed Holly's gradual transformation from a shy (but also brave and ethical) recluse in Mr. Mercedes to Bill Hodges's partner in Finders Keepers to a full-fledged, smart, and occasionally tough private detective in The Outsider. In King's new novel, Holly is on her own, and up against a pair of unimaginably depraved and brilliantly disguised adversaries. 30 points

64. James: A Novel by Percival Everett A brilliant, action-packed reimagining of Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, both harrowing and ferociously funny, told from the enslaved Jim's point of view • From the "literary icon" (Oprah Daily) and Pulitzer Prize Finalist whose novel Erasure is the basis for Cord Jefferson's critically acclaimed film American Fiction 20 points

65. Just the Nicest Couple by Mary Kubica A surgeon goes missing and one of his wife's friends holds a secret about the disappearance. 20 points

66. Lady Tan's Circle of Women: A Novel by Lisa See An immersive historical novel inspired by the true story of a woman physician in 15th-century China. According to Confucius, "an educated woman is a worthless woman," but Tan Yunxian—born into an elite family, yet haunted by death, separations, and loneliness—is being raised by her grandparents to be of use. Her grandmother is one of only a handful of female doctors in China, and she teaches Yunxian the pillars of Chinese medicine, the Four Examinations—looking, listening, touching, and asking—something a man can never do with a female patient. 20 points

67. Listen for the Lie: A Novel by Amy Tintera After Lucy is found wandering the streets, covered in her best friend Savvy's blood, everyone thinks she is a murderer. Later, the phenomenally huge hit true crime podcast "Listen for the Lie," and its too-good looking host Ben Owens, have decided to investigate Savvy's murder for the show's second season. Lucy is forced to return to the place she vowed never to set foot in again to solve her friend's murder, even if she is the one that did it. 20 points

68. Love Letters to a Serial Killer by Tasha Coryell Sardonic, biting or just straight-up self-absorbed, the protagonist Hannah is often hilarious in this debut novel. 20 points.

69. Murder Road by Simone St. James Unexplained murders have been happening along Atticus Line for years and the cops finally have two witnesses who easily become their only suspects. As April and Eddie start to dig into the history of the town and that horrible stretch of road to clear their names, they soon learn that there is something supernatural at work, something that could not only tear the town and its dark secrets apart but take April and Eddie down with it all. 20 points

70. Never Too Late: A Novel by Danielle Steel In this powerful and moving new novel, Danielle Steel illuminates the importance of human connection and embracing brave change, proving it's never too late for a brand-new start. 20 points

71. Now or Never (Stephanie Plum Book 31) by Janet Evanovich Stephanie Plum, New Jersey's hardest working, most under-appreciated bounty hunter, returns with a bang in her latest adventure. While Stephanie's personal life is hanging by a thread, a killer case lands on her doorstep that changes everything. Full of humor and suspense, Now or Never proves that a new book from #1 bestselling writer Janet Evanovich is always right on time. 20 points

72. Passions in Death: An Eve Dallas Novel (Book 59 of 60): |September 3, 2024 by J. D. Robb On a hot August night, Lt. Eve Dallas and her husband, Roarke, speed through the streets of Manhattan to the Down and Dirty club, where a joyful, boisterous pre-wedding girls' night out has turned into a murder scene. One of the brides lies in a pool of blood, garroted in a private room where she was preparing a surprise for her fiancée—two scrimped and saved-for tickets to Hawaii. 20 points

73. Pineapple Street: A Novel by Jenny Jackson A deliciously funny, sharply observed debut of family, love, and class, this zeitgeisty novel follows three women in one wealthy Brooklyn clan. 20 points

74. Pride & Prejudice by Jane Austen Follow the spirited Elizabeth Bennet as she navigates the complexities of love, family, and societal expectations in this beloved classic that continues to captivate readers worldwide. 30 points GFWC Fayette County ESO club chose this book for discussion but found the local public library did not have it!

75. Random in Death: An Eve Dallas Novel (58 of 60) by J. D. Robb Jenna's parents had finally given in, and there she was, at a New York club with her best friends, watching the legendary band Avenue A, carrying her demo in hopes of slipping it to the guitarist, Jake Kincade. Then, from the stage, Jake catches her eye, and smiles. It's the best night of her life. It's the last night of her life. 20 points

76. River Sing Me Home: A Novel by Eleanor Shearer This beautiful, page-turning and redemptive story of a mother's gripping journey across the Caribbean to find her stolen children and piece her family back together is a "celebration of motherhood and female resilience." 20 points

77. Save What's Left: A Novel by Elizabeth Castellano Save What's Left can best be described as the "un-beach read." It pulls back the curtain on life in a beach town, revealing the true cost of a pretty view. Told from the candid and irreverent perspective of a newcomer turned local, this is a story of forgiveness, fortitude, and second chances. 20 points

78. Simply Lies: A Psychological Thriller by David Baldacci A twisting new psychological thriller in which two women—one a former detective, the other a dangerous con artist—go head-to-head in an electrifying game of cat and mouse. A new character, Mickey Gibson is introduced. 30 points Andra Sudler describes it as "OK" for readers who like Baldacci.

79. Somebody's Fool: A novel (North Bath Trilogy) Book 3 of 3 by Richard Russo Ten years after the death of the magnetic Donald "Sully" Sullivan, the town of North Bath is going through a major transition as it is annexed by its much wealthier neighbor, Schuyler Springs. Peter, Sully's son, is still grappling with his father's tremendous legacy as well as his relationship to his own son, Thomas, wondering if he has been all that different a father than Sully was to him. Infused with all the wry humor and shrewd observations that Russo is known for, Somebody's Fool is another classic from a modern master. 30 points

80. Soulmate by Sally Hepworth "The book is many things: a crime story, a psychological study, a blueprint for how and when to mete out information in a thriller. But most of all it is an inquiry into the mysteries of marriage and commitment, and into what we owe our spouses and one another." 20 points Recommended by Andra Sudler

81. Swamp Spies (Miss Fortune Mysteries Book 26) by Jana DeLeon Things have reached a critical point in the Middle East. Carter agreed to serve as a consultant for his old Force Recon unit but for reasons unknown to his friends and family, jumped from the command center and into the field. Now he's MIA, and Fortune is the only one who can put together a rescue mission that has any chance of being successful. But will her skills and connections be enough? 20 points (Still hooked. TH)

82. Swan Song (June 11, 2024) by Elin Hilderbrand Chief of Police Ed Kapenash is about to retire. Blond Sharon is going through a divorce. But when a 22-million-dollar summer home is purchased by the mysterious Richardsons—how did they make their money, exactly?—Ed, Sharon, and everyone in the community are swept up in high drama. The Richardsons throw lavish parties, flirt with multiple locals, flaunt their wealth with not one but two yachts, and raise impossible hopes of everyone they meet. **The last of Elin Hilderbrand's bestselling Nantucket novels, SWAN SONG** is a propulsive medley of glittering gatherings, sun-soaked drama, wisdom and heart, featuring the return of some of her most beloved characters, including, most importantly, the beautiful and timeless island of Nantucket itself. 20 points

83. The Block Party by Jamie Day The residents of the exclusive cul-de-sac on Alton Road are entangled in a web of secrets and scandal utterly unknown to the outside world, and even to each other. On the night of the annual Summer block party, there has been a murder. But, who did it and why takes readers back one year earlier, as rivalries and betrayals unfold—discovering that the real danger lies within their own block and nothing—and no one—is ever as it seems. 20 points

84. The Breakaway: A Novel by Jennifer Weiner Thirty-three-year-old Abby Stern has made it to a happy place. True, she still has gig jobs instead of a career, and the apartment where she's lived since college still looks like she's just moved in. But she's got good friends, her bike, and her bicycling club in Philadelphia. She's at peace with her plus-size body—at least, most of the time—and she's on track to marry Mark Medoff, her childhood sweetheart, a man she met at the weight-loss camp that her perpetually dieting mother forced her to attend. Fifteen years after her final summer at Camp Golden Hills, when Abby reconnects with a half-his-size Mark, it feels like the happy ending she's always wanted. 30 points

85. The Family Remains: A Novel by Lisa Jewell Early one morning on the shore of the Thames, DCI Samuel Owusu is called to the scene of a gruesome discovery. When Owusu sends the evidence for examination, he learns the bones are connected to a cold case that left three people dead on the kitchen floor in a Chelsea mansion thirty years ago. 30 points

86. The Happiness Plan by Susan Mallery Heather is happy . . . ish. She has a successful business, a cute but contemptuous cat, and best friends Daphne and Tori who know where she's broken and love her anyway. So why does she feel crushed when her ex gets serious about someone new? No problem, she has a plan. More connections will hold her together while her world falls apart, so she finally reaches out to the stranger who might be her dad. 30 points

87. The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store: by James McBride “A murder mystery locked inside a Great American Novel . . . Charming, smart, heart-blistering, and heart-healing.” —Danez Smith 30 points

88. The Hunter: A Novel by Tana French “French specializes in books full of psychological acuity, bone-deep empathy and authentic colloquial speech. All of these aspects are on full display in *The Hunter*, a roughhewn comedy that before long becomes a tale of rough justice.” *The Wall Street Journal* 30 points

89. The Husbands by Holly Gramazio All her friends are getting married and she is super single. There is a man in her apartment. When he goes upstairs, a new husband comes down. She gets a new husband and life anytime she wants. When you can indefinitely swipe (or swap) how do you know when you have found the one? 20 points

90. The Lions of Fifth Avenue: (A Novel) by Fiona Davis “In this thrilling, poignant, and utterly irresistible novel, we are immersed in the secrets of the famed New York Public Library and the family whose lives are intertwined with it in 1913 and 1993. At once a breathtaking, page-turning mystery and a deeply personal story of women attempting to forge independent lives, it is, ultimately, a glorious tale of love. Love of family, love of vocation, and, above all, the love of the timeless power of the written word.” 20 points

91. The List by Yomi Adegoke In this sensational, page-turning debut novel, a high-profile female journalist’s world is upended when her fiancé’s name turns up in a viral social media post—a nuanced, daring, and timely exploration of the real-world impact of online life, from award-winning journalist and internationally bestselling author. 20 points

92. The MacGregor Grooms: Three Passionate Proposals (The MacGregors, 10) by Nora Roberts Daniel MacGregor is at it again! This time, the lovable MacGregor patriarch is looking to connect three of his bachelor grandsons with the women of their dreams...whether they want his help or not. But just as he did with his granddaughters, Daniel has a few tricks up his sleeve to kick-start three lasting relationships. 20 points

93. The Marriage Portrait: A novel by Maggie O’Farrell In Florence, the 1550s. Lucrezia, third daughter of the grand duke, is comfortable with her obscure place in the palazzo: free to wonder at its treasures, observe its clandestine workings, and devote herself to her own artistic pursuits. But when her older sister dies on the eve of her wedding to the ruler of Ferrara, Modena and Reggio, Lucrezia is thrust unwittingly into the limelight: the duke is quick to request her hand in marriage, and her father just as quick to accept on her behalf. 20 points Note: The author is a stammerer and states that a stammerer is hypersensitive to language and vocabulary and can think of five synonyms for every word. When she saw the original portrait of Lucrezia de’Medici, she knew it was her next book. “She looks really worried; she looks as if she has something to say, and I wanted to tell her side of the story.”

94. The Memory of Water by Karen White The author of the Tradd Street novels returns to the South Carolina Lowcountry with a gripping tale of two sisters haunted by one tragic night... On the night their mother drowns, sisters Marnie and Diana Maitland discover there is more than one kind of death. There is the death of innocence, of love, and of hope. Each sister harbors a secret about that night-secrets that will erode their lives as they grow into adulthood. 20 points

95. The Nigerwife: A Novel by Vanessa Walters “White Lotus meets Big Little Lies” (Good Morning America) in this riveting domestic drama about a young woman who goes missing in Lagos, Nigeria, and her estranged auntie who will stop at nothing to find her. 20 points

96. The Truth about the Devlins by Lisa Scottoline TJ Devlin is the charming disappointment in the prominent Devlin family, all of whom are lawyers at their highly successful firm—except him. After a stint in prison and rehab for alcoholism, TJ can’t get hired anywhere except at the firm, in a make-work job with the title of investigator. He becomes entangled in an investigation that involves his brother and they fight to save their family. 20 points

97. The View From Penthouse B by Elinor Lipman Two sisters recover from widowhood, divorce, and Bernie Madoff as unexpected roommates in a Manhattan apartment. Unexpectedly widowed Gwen-Laura Schmidt is still mourning her husband, Edwin, when her older sister Margot invites her to join forces as roommates in Margot’s luxurious Village apartment. For Margot, divorced amid scandal (hint: her husband was a fertility doctor) and then made Ponzi-poor, it’s a chance to shake Gwen out of her grief and help make ends meet. To further this effort she enlists a third boarder, the handsome, cupcake-baking Anthony. 20 points

98. The Violin Conspiracy: A Novel by Brendan Slocumb Ray McMillian is a Black classical musician on the rise—undeterred by the pressure and prejudice of the classical music world—when a shocking theft sends him on a desperate quest to recover his great-great-grandfather’s heirloom violin on the eve of the most prestigious musical competition in the world. 20 points

99. The Wind Knows My Name: A Novel by Isabel Allende The lives of a Jewish boy escaping Nazi-occupied Europe and a mother and daughter fleeing twenty-first-century El Salvador intersect in this ambitious, intricate novel about war and immigration” 20 points

100. The Year of the Locust: A Thriller by Terry Hayes If, like Kane, you’re a Denied Access Area spy for the CIA, then boundaries have no meaning. Your function is to go in, do whatever is required, and get out again—by whatever means necessary. You know when to run, when to hide—and when to shoot. Kane travels there to exfiltrate a man with vital information for the safety of the West—but instead he meets an adversary who will take the world to the brink of extinction. A frightening, clever, vicious man with blood on his hands and vengeance in his heart... 40 points

101. Tom Lake by Ann Pachett This story is set on a family orchard in northern Michigan during the pandemic of 2020. Laura, her husband and their three grown daughters ride out the pandemic helping her parents pick cherries for the season. While working, the girls get their mother to tell them about decades earlier, before she met their father. A story about how huge life is and how small it is. 20 points.

102. Too Late by Colleen Hoover Sloan will go through hell and back for those she loves. And she does so, every single day. Caught up with the alluring Asa Jackson, a notorious drug trafficker, Sloan has finally found a lifeline to cling to, even if it’s meant compromising her morals. She was in dire straits trying to pay for her brother’s care until she met Asa. But as Sloan became emotionally and economically reliant on him, he in turn developed a disturbing obsession with her—one that becomes increasingly dangerous every day. 20 points